

Public Libraries

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Campaign of Library Publicity in the General Magazines*

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In an attempt to gain the public's ear, to interest and hold the public's attention, and to secure the natural consequence, larger liberality on the part of municipalities toward a department hitherto ignored or treated perfunctorily and on a theoretic basis, libraries must live down two things: First, the impression, still influential with the majority of taxpayers, that libraries are chiefly or wholly for recreative purposes; and second, that the workings of a library are of a purely technical or administrative character, that there is something esoteric about their administration which only librarians (and trained ones at that) can understand, and that their results are principally statistics, the most uninteresting of reading to people in general.

The first difficulty is gradually being solved, and the solution of it depends largely on the local library, since it can best convince the local people of the value and extent of its resources and show the uses they can be put to. Where this is done by a live librarian who knows his or her business, the community is learning very gradually to respond with more substantial appropriations and a higher library tax-rate; but there are parts of the country still where the community, including often the library board, fail to recognize financially the generosity, self-sacrifice, and professional skill of some local librarian who is prevented by circumstances from seek-

ing a better fortune in some other and more liberal or enlightened place. Advantage is taken of this very inability, in fact. "Let her spend extra hours on a new catalog, or in getting up a Christmas exhibit, *if she wants to*; no one is making her do it. It is just what she likes to do." But if recognition of this public spirit in the form of addition to salary were suggested, you would find even some members of library boards saying, "Why, she has never asked for an increase. And she'd rather live at home, or else she'd go somewhere else and get more. It would cost her more to live away from here, probably. Anyhow, the town can't afford it, with sidewalks and waterworks and electric lighting, etc., to pay for. The *important* things must come first." Notice that word "important." In the minds of at least half the voters of a community, material improvements take precedence of what goes into the minds and spirits of the people to make better people, and hence better citizens, and every one knows that when a reform-administration comes in, on the cry of economy, the first things to be cut down in cost are the public schools and the public library.

This materialistic attitude must be changed before the library can come into its own. Looked at closely, it is not so far removed from the attitude of the mob in the Reign of Terror, which destroyed museums, libraries, monuments, and works of art. Our communities are perhaps a little worse, for, while they do not actually destroy, they hamper and starve their most potent agencies for good *in favor of* institutions and works that spell only material progress and often feed the greed of private interests, and

*Read before the Council of A. L. A., Chicago, January 2, 1914.

they do it in cold blood and not in the rage of reprisals.

How are we to convince people generally that libraries count for something in progress, that they are worth liberal support, that the good results of their work, while more or less intangible, are as undeniable as the results of building a system of sewerage, and cleaning the town streets and alleys, and extending the street-car lines?

The second thing to be lived down is the odor of professionalism. We all know the innocent personal friend who admires without understanding our work, and looks at us with puzzled and marveling eyes when we speak of cataloging and classification, of charging systems and reserves, the renewals and lists, but who hasn't any desire to know more or to really understand and would much rather talk or hear about something else. The case is much what our own case would be if our city accountant insisted on explaining to us the details of his system, or the school superintendent should expect us to grow enthusiastic over the system of markings adopted in the schools. Even when we are doing things in themselves interesting, the expression of them in figures is death to the interest of the outsider. One incident is worth a whole table of statistics. Can we not decide on what are the attractive, the picturesque, the dramatic, the convincing, the inspiring features of our work, and set these before the public that reads the magazines and the newspapers—particularly the magazines, since these have more than a local constituency?

Why should we not be able to gain admission to some of the general periodicals? Have they not been giving room of late to the confessions of ministers, editors, authors of best sellers, and even of brakemen? Why not the confessions of librarians of all types? And what could be more picturesque than the career of some of our traveling libraries? What more dramatic than the work of city branches among foreigners? What more inspiring and illuminating than the work being done with children, with

state institutions, with rural communities? Is there not some mind-reader among us who can show convincingly the power and influence of a given book, the psychology of a given reader? Is not the censorship of books and magazines a new subject, worthy of a disquisition? While among librarians we have numerous ready pens, and while such magazines as the *North American Review*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Outlook* and *Independent*, *World's Work*, etc., are looking for subjects which have novelty, can we say that we are not ready and that there is no field?

Mary Antin's recognition—about the first evidence of grateful appreciation in print that libraries have had—makes one wonder if there are not others among the crowds educating themselves at our shelves who might be willing and able to tell the part that free libraries have played in their lives. Such publicity might bring not only increase of dignity and of appropriations,—it might arouse some of the other agencies working along their separate lines to seek closer and more constant coöperation. It might represent the work in a way to draw to it the very people we want from all parts of the country, who are drifting into better known professions because we are making no effort to reach them by setting forth the parts of our work that make a more general appeal than the strictly professional.

Have we not, ourselves, reached the point where we must relegate the technical and the administrative to their places and cease to be absorbed by them to the exclusion of that which is really the mark of our high calling—the knowledge of the book's contents and the application of these contents to the condition of the individual? Must we not provide not only the cataloger and the reference-assistant, the deskworker and the clerk, but also the psychologist, the teacher, the comrade in literature? When we begin to see our calling in its essentials, to care more for the end than for the means to that end, public recognition will come and all things else shall be added.

Library Legislation in 1913

For several years, W. R. Eastman of New York has followed the library legislation enacted in the country, and has prepared a voluminous record for 1913. The following are some of its salient points:

During the year 1913, the legislatures of 44 states were in session. Returns from 31 states in which the legislatures acted on library matters, and from the District of Columbia, have been noted.

A gratifying increase of commission funds is noted in 10 states.

County systems are brought into co-operation, and the power to contract for library facilities is extended in six states.

The state library is being re-organized for more active service to the public in a number of states.

A new retirement pension plan for librarians appeared in one state, Nebraska.

A library commission of five was created in South Dakota.

In Tennessee, the State board of education superseded the Free library commission, assuming all of its powers and duties, except the system of traveling libraries, which was placed under the direction of the State library. Public as well as school libraries are now under the supervision of the State board of education. The Library commission exists in law, but has no appropriation for active work.

In Washington, a bill introduced to create a new commission upon a different basis, emphasizing the educational rather than the legal side of the State library, and to promote public, normal and traveling library work throughout the state, failed to pass. The Library commission at present consists of the Governor, attorney-general and eight judges of the Supreme court.

The work of the Library commission of Oregon was turned over to the State library, under control of the Library commission, and the Secretary of the commission becomes the State-librarian. An increased appropriation of \$7,500 a year was given to the commission.

The appropriation for commission

work was increased in the following states:

Connecticut, from \$3,250 to \$4,000. In Delaware, doubled. In Illinois, from \$1,800 to \$5,270. Indiana, from \$10,000 to \$12,500. In Massachusetts, \$2,000 was voted to direct educational work through the library for the benefit of foreign speaking people, and state aid to the library was increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000. In Michigan, from \$4,000 to \$5,500. In North Carolina, from \$1,500 to \$3,000. In North Dakota, from \$7,800 to \$8,000. In Vermont, from \$1,000 to \$1,500, for traveling libraries, and for general work, \$2,500 to \$3,100.

Kansas shows a decrease from \$2,000 to \$1,000 for books for traveling libraries and \$50 less for expenses. In New York, there is a decrease from \$35,000 to \$25,000 for state aid to free libraries, and from \$6,000 to \$1,000 for books for traveling libraries. The salaries of two library organizers were cut off.

The 11 states in which there is as yet no public provision for state library work are: Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

There are now 38 library commissions in 37 states, Colorado having two commissions.

In Kansas 25 instead of 50 voters are now required on petition, and library directors are to be nine instead of 13.

In Maine, a three mill tax, formerly two, is to be allowed, except in first class cities. The power of the library contract is given to the governing boards of the cities.

In Michigan, the city boards of education are empowered to raise money.

In Wisconsin, obligation to raise money to meet a conditional library gift can be assumed only by two-thirds vote of the governing body, and may then be subject to a referendum. Public library expenditures are hereafter not to be paid on the order of the library trustees, but on the order of the city clerk, to whom the library board is to send approved vouchers.

In Indiana, in cities of from 4,000 to

45,000 population, library matters may be transferred from independent bodies to school boards with the consent of both boards.

In Delaware, a law provides that local contributions may come from any source satisfactory to the commission, as a condition of state aid.

A number of special acts for individual cases were passed in New York state.

In California, \$65,000 was given to the University of California for a library building at the University farm at Davis.

In Austin, Texas, the city was authorized to establish and maintain a free public library on land originally set apart for church purposes.

In four states, attention was given to rural library extension, Iowa, Minnesota, Washington and Texas.

The Postmaster-general announced a new rule December 6, 1913, approved by the Inter-state commerce commission, providing that after March 16, 1914, book packages weighing more than one-half pound may be sent at parcel post rates.

School libraries were provided for in a number of states.

In New Jersey, the State commissioner of education was made a member of the Public library commission.

In South Carolina, towns of over 3,000 population may use three per cent of the annual levy for schools for the purchase and maintenance of the library.

In Tennessee, school libraries may receive from the state an amount equal to that locally raised, not to exceed \$40 in one year.

In Minnesota, the law requiring the state school boards to assign contracts to the lowest bidders for furnishing books to libraries, was repealed.

Legislation affecting the state library was passed in many states. In California, for the first time, the maintenance of the State library was included in a general appropriation. Previously, the State library was supported by fees collected by the Secretary of state. The staff of the State library went under civil service, except the State-librarian, first-assistant, confidential clerk and ap-

pointees for court, law, teachers, school and county libraries. The law is now amended so that the librarian may appoint his own assistant, paying him a suitable salary.

The Illinois state library will receive \$10,700 instead of \$8,400, and the State historical society will receive \$26,100 instead of \$16,600.

In Texas, the salary of the State-librarian is advanced from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Legislative reference was provided for in four states. In Illinois, an independent bureau was created. In Indiana, the bureau was separated from the State library, and placed under a separate board. The new bureau is to receive \$13,500 annually.

In Ohio, a legislative reference department under the control of the Board of the state library, with an initial appropriation of \$10,000, was created.

In New Hampshire, a Legislative reference bureau in the State library was provided.

A provision for librarians receiving state documents was made in California, Texas, Michigan and New Jersey.

In the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada, the Provincial legislature passed an amendment to the Public libraries act placing all libraries under the superintendence of the Provincial librarian. It empowered rural municipalities to contribute not more than \$200 a year for library purposes, village councils not more than \$100, and rural school boards not more than \$50, a year. The Provincial librarian is authorized to assist libraries by providing them with books, magazines and papers, according to rules and regulations to be established. This will mean the inauguration of an extensive system of traveling libraries to supplement small libraries in rural municipalities and villages. The movement, introduced by the Government, was heartily supported by the Opposition.

"Business men are beginning to realize that a modern library is a Bureau of information."

Why "Non-Fiction?"

Is there not psychological mistake in the employment of this term year after year by so many libraries? To a more or less uninterested, non-card-holding public in a small town does not the library seem to exist merely as a purveyor of fiction, a place where "the women" go for novels? Everything outside fiction pure negation, "non-fiction." In the small town where monthly reports of the library are often printed in the local papers, without full classified tables, it is "fiction" and "non-fiction," and this is frequently the fate of the juvenile circulation in larger libraries where the adult circulation is classified. But could not the children's report, especially if given in a newspaper, read:

Nature books, Travel books, etc.....
Stories

This is clumsy, but the other is suicidal. Imagine Socialism called "non-private ownership," or poetry, "non-prose." There is something aggressively "librarianly," unspeakably dry and dreary about "non-fiction." Cannot somebody suggest a single comprehensive, constructive term that shall cover what is after all the most important part of our reading? Nothing occurs to the present writer. But the question is submitted,—in hope.

ELIZABETH CARTER.

Somerville, New Jersey.

Library Assistant Examinations

The Illinois Civil Service Commission will, on Saturday, March 21, 1914, conduct in Chicago, Urbana, Springfield, and perhaps in other cities in the state, examinations for the position of library assistant in the State library, the University library, the Library Extension Commission, the Normal School libraries, and the libraries of other state institutions. The examination is open to non-residents. Further information may be had from W. R. Robinson, Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, Springfield, Illinois.

"A book unused is of little value to anyone. The right book in the hands of the right man may be of untold value."

A Library Party in Hartford, Conn.

An interesting event, which is an annual occurrence with the Public library of Hartford, Conn., for the past nine years, was the Doll party on New Year's afternoon in the children's room.

Little by little the room has come into possession of a collection of foreign dolls and costumes. After a story, every doll who has a name is formally introduced to the children.

The librarian says that the lack of imagination in a child is nowhere more clearly shown than where she does not give her doll a name, nor invest it with human qualities. Educators are beginning to see how great an advantage lies in this same power of imagination or sympathetic interest. It is with the idea of making active the imagination of the children that in the children's room the dolls from foreign countries hold a reception every New Year's day, and each visiting doll is formally presented to them by name.

There were about 40 girls and about half a dozen boys at the Doll party this year, the girls all carrying their dolls. On a long table on both sides of the partition, sat the array: a Japanese doll at least 100 years old in the costume of the old feudal warrior, and dolls of the following nationalities, each representing a historical character or a special period of history: English, Japanese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Swedish, Thuringian, Holland, Hungarian, Jewish, Scotch, Italian, Swiss, Venetian, Chinese and Russian.

There were also cotton pickers, mamies, a New Haven fish wife, the Emperor and Empress of China, Koto from Japan, and a company of Chinese actors.

The guest of honor of the afternoon was Mrs Mary Hamilton Wade, whose "Little cousin" books about child life in various countries are very popular. She told the children a story of the Feast of Dolls in Japan.

The children then were shown dolls of all sorts and sizes, and invited to look at books about dolls, a large collection of which is owned by the library.

The 1914 Conference of A. L. A.

The City of Washington has been unanimously chosen by the Executive Board as the next meeting place of the Association the week of May 25-30.

Judging from the comments and opinions of various members from widely different sections of country, the decision is a popular one and will be generally welcomed. The Board has been of the impression that a middle-west meeting place should be selected, or at least that a point as far east as Washington should not be chosen in view of the 1913 meeting in that section. In order to ascertain the real feeling of the middle-west librarians a "straw vote" was taken. The Secretary selected eighty representative members of the Association residing in the middle-west states and asked their preference, Washington in May or Mackinac Island the first week in July. The "returns" show Washington, 50; Mackinac Island, 23. This seemed to indicate clearly that the middle-west librarians and library assistants looked with much favor on Washington. The national capital will undoubtedly be popular with the East and the South and the people from the far West will not mind another day's ride, for they are used to it, or else they can wait until 1915 in the hope that the Association then will come to their region.

Of course it will be impossible for all the delegates to be housed under one hostelry in Washington. Headquarters will be at the New Willard, the finest hotel in the capital, but accommodations can only be had there for about 200 members. The rates of the New Willard, however, will be inconveniently high to many. Across the street the New Ebbetts offers accommodations for 400 or 500 at a rate of \$3.00 a day and up, American plan. A large number of other hotels in the vicinity offer a wide range of service and prices. Library assistants will find room and board if desired as low as \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day. A rooming bureau will be established in Washington through which the members will be helped to secure the class of accommodations they desire.

Early application will help to secure desirable accommodations for everybody. The Executive Board, at its recent meeting, passed a vote restricting the services of the rooming bureau in securing reduced rates at the hotels to members of the Association, of the affiliated societies, and of their families. It has been found that a number of librarians availed themselves of the reduced rates at the hotels in time of conference without joining either the Association, or affiliated societies, and as there is a heavy expense to the Association in conducting a conference it seems only just and fair that those profiting should bear their share of the expense by joining the Association and paying the very reasonable membership fee.

A special effort will be made to have our Canadian members attend this Washington meeting in large numbers, as a return visit to ours to their national capital in 1912.

The Program committee are already engaged in the program. Its general tone and nature will of course be influenced by the fact of its presentation at the national capital and in proximity to the national library and the various departmental libraries which perform a more or less national service. The meetings will mostly be held in the New Willard hotel. Perhaps for some of the large general sessions other arrangements will be made. A number of pleasant social features are being tentatively planned.

Washington will be such a magnet that it is unnecessary to urge librarians to plan to attend this conference. It will undoubtedly be one of the largest in the history of the association. It is hoped that each one who goes will carry home definite and clearer knowledge how his own community and his own library may be helped by the Library of Congress, by the office of the Superintendent of Documents, by the library of the Bureau of Education, the Department of Agriculture, and the other departmental systems. That will make our first Washington conference a success worthy of repetition in the future.

G. B. U.

Books and Baths

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

A happy 1914 to you. If anyone wants information about what seems to him to be a puzzling matter, insert an adv. in the Want column of the PUBLIC LIBRARIES! The answer always comes!

In reply to "Distressed Librarian," (p. 11, PUBLIC LIBRARIES for January), I beg to state that in all probability he came from the Monongahela Valley between Pittsburgh and McKeesport; for in that charmed region are the lairs of the librarians who are also club superintendents, and consequently furnish books and baths to those who ask for them. Homestead and Braddock have institutions similar to, practically identical with, this one, and the Andrew Carnegie free library of Carnegie, Pa., is also housed in a building with a gymnasium and shower-bath department. Patrons of this institution refer to it as "The library," irrespective of the particular department they may be thinking of at the time. "C'm on, let's go to the library and have a swim," "Are you going to the recital at the library next Sunday?"

C. E. WRIGHT,

Carnegie free library,
Duquesne, Pa.

The Pagination of Magazines

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Librarians must regard with considerable regret the tendency now apparent among certain magazines to use separate rather than continuous pagination for each issue. Having become somewhat interested in the matter, I sent a letter to the chief magazines adopting this style of pagination and received replies from the *Woman's Home Companion*, *Harper's Weekly*, *The American Magazine*, *Collier's*, *Country Life in America*, *The Delineator*, *The Ladies' Home Journal*, and *McClure's*.

While the reasons mentioned for this change are sufficiently varied, one of the principal ones seems to be complaints from patrons of continuous pagination as being illogical for a single number. It

would seem, however, that a broader conception of the matter would show the desirability of presenting each issue as an integral part of a completed volume, rather than a separate brochure to be glanced through and thrown away.

Might it not be worth while for the various library clubs and associations to consider this question as the practice on the part of publishers appears to be growing?

A further difficulty is experienced in the obscure place which the date for separate issues often occupies. It should be feasible at least to print the date as a part of the caption in the running title, so that a person opening a bound volume at any place would notice the date immediately. The trouble necessary to identify the issues of certain well known magazines when bound is quite considerable.

ROBERT K. SHAW,
Librarian.

Public library, Worcester, Mass.

Missouri Not Behind Massachusetts

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Mr Wellman and Mr Wilcox both ought to know that some of the rest of us long ago used the method of advertising our libraries in store windows. Two years ago we conducted an extensive campaign of this sort here in St. Joseph (see P. L. 16:211), using placards, lists, etc., very much as Mr Wilcox explains in the January number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and of course it will be remembered that Mr Bostwick did this in his old building very extensively. At this time we are using a store window to advertise our library. In St. Joseph a prominent man owns a large collection of North American Indian material. We have a continuous exhibition of portions of this collection in our library, making changes every two weeks, and in one of our prominent store windows there is a large exhibit of Indian baskets from the collection, with a prominent placard indicating that portions of the collection are on continuous exhibition at the library.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

St. Joseph, Mo

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
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Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
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Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Books in Parcel Post—Among the latest of the many good things which the present administration of the national government is providing, is the admittance of books into parcel post.

This will mean a tremendous extension of library service to rural communities, and release in many of the commissions, energy and means for other work.

Postmaster Burleson deserves the gratitude of the library workers everywhere.

Inexcusable college pranks in Ohio—Oberlin College in Ohio has made a record in its earlier days of which it is justly proud, and which forms an important link in the development of higher education in America.

The pity of it is that to such a record should be added the recent occurrence in which night marauders entered its library, one of the finest in Ohio, and wantonly mutilated the books and records of the library. The product of conscien-

tious and earnest work of years was wiped out in a few hours, and a blot was put on the fair fame of this institution for no apparent cause, the sad part about the whole affair being the belief that the depredation was the work of students of the college. Doubtless it was only the effort of a few, and this is one of the cases where a righteous indignation should mete out severe punishment for the crime committed.

Mechanical arts and the library—The practice of having musical rolls in public libraries for lending is a practice that is spreading. Accompanying it, perhaps growing out of it, is the practice of lending stereopticon views and material for reflectoscopes.

Last year, Mr Collier, of the People's institute, New York, made a plea for a municipal motion film show, free to the public as books and pictures are free.

H. G. Wells has announced that a number of societies have asked that some of his lectures be transferred to films which can be thrown on the screen and read by select audiences.

The Victrola and other phonographic records have added much to the enjoyment of music in the home, and doubtless a further perfection of the phonographic instruments will permit one to sit within his own home and hear as satisfactorily, orations, poetry, etc. The trouble with the general adoption of this is the lack of these machines in so many homes. The high price at which they are now sold is prohibitive of possessing the most satisfactory device, but like everything else in time, it may be expected that they can be produced at less cost. In the meantime, it would seem to be quite as legitimate for a library to possess good music rolls or disks, stereopticon pictures, and all material of a similar kind to be lent to societies, institutions, homes, and individuals with as great propriety as books and other material are now lent.

Library progress in Canada—The progress of library work in Canada in recent years, particularly of public library work, has been remarkable not only for its high character, but also for the area which it has covered.

The wise insight of the Department of Education in providing for the expenses of the library institute for the scattered small libraries, is bearing fruit in the development not only of a progressive library spirit, but in the actual educational progress that has been made.

A visitor who recently attended the library institute held in Ottawa, and who had been present at the first institute held in that locality, says,

The progress made by individual librarians who sat stockstill and apparently dumb at the first meeting, actually had to be shut off from discussion on account of the lack of time at this meeting and the best part of it was that the discussion was really intelligent and to the point.

It may be that starting late in public library extension has not been a bad thing for the northern provinces. They have been able to benefit by the mistakes of other localities which started their library extension earlier.

The city of Toronto is fast becoming one of the strong library centers of the continent, and today possesses the finest library system in Canada. The late Dr Bain, for many years in charge of the library interests of Toronto, was essentially a scholar and had much of the characteristics of the old time librarian who was most interested in collecting good books and in making the collection representative of the best thought of the day. Fortunately he was followed by one of the later school, who believe not only in collecting good books, but also in giving these same books the widest possible dissemination. And this has been done by taking the books to the people through branch libraries.

Dr George H. Locke recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of his assumption of the office of librarian in the city of Toronto by opening a branch library of the most modern type, with up-to-date methods, and this is the eleventh library which he has opened in his five

years of occupancy of the chair of librarian.

The smaller cities of Canada, particularly of Ontario, are showing a like increase, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Regina and Victoria also are all moving forward along approved lines, and the thoroughness of their work is being witnessed by results of a high order. The public libraries in Canada very truly may be said to be "an integral part of public education."

Midwinter meetings in Chicago—Like a meeting of A. L. A. in fact, was the gathering of librarians in Chicago. Not only was there a good sprinkling of the faithful who are always present, but there were so many things going on, most of the time, that one felt the regular pressure of A. L. A. All the meetings were interesting, but one felt wherever he was, that another meeting ought to be visited also.

The League of library commissions had a good meeting. There was a snap to the proceedings that is not usual in such special meetings. Strange to say, they began on time, cleared up the program and quit promptly. The Illinois meeting partook of the general interest in having new people and new subjects on hands, but it may be fairly questioned whether it was the sort of meeting that was most helpful to the general library worker.

The questions discussed by the A. L. A. council had a piquancy to them that came not alone from the subjects presented, but as well from the fact that the speakers brought new points of view and treatment. Mr Ranck was present with his discussion of heating, lighting and ventilation; Dr Andrews with reports on various phases of bibliographic activities, and Mr Brett, Dr Hill, Dr Bostwick and others on subjects familiar in the field of discussion. John Cotton Dana issued his usual philippic against the A. L. A. and all its works in a letter to the secretary, which he also gave to the newspapers. Miss Rathbone's presentation of proposed additions to the librarian's code of ethics (see P. L. 14:203) was to the point, tho somewhat embarrassing to

some, perhaps. Miss Plummer's argument for more widely presented discussions of libraries and their work in general literary magazines, struck a new note. (See page 41.)

The report from the A. L. A. executive board given elsewhere has interest of various kinds in it. Financially the work of the association is prosperous. Its influence in directions outside its membership is growing.

The burden of choosing a nominating committee imposed on the executive board by the constitution evidently was too complex for the members to handle and one is either amused or curious on reading of the nomination of a committee to nominate a committee to nominate a list of officers to be approved by the executive board before submitting it to the association to be elected.

A revision to simpler form seems in order.

Destructive Growth

PUBLIC LIBRARIES has held from the first that it was not expedient to consider affiliation with the A. L. A., of smaller library organizations that wish to be free from the dues and regulations of the A. L. A. The editor of this paper, as a member of the Council, opposed affiliation with the associations known as "Special libraries association," "Law libraries association," etc., also questioning the wisdom of affiliating state associations with the A. L. A. on the basis proposed by the committee. The ground for this objection was that the name, "American library association," was elastic enough to cover any activities which might be undertaken by any of the diverse bodies asking for affiliation, and that any one or all of them could be accommodated under the rules and dues of the American library association, in a separate section of the one great national body.

As was pointed out in the discussion on the subject at the time, by Dr Putnam, the term "American library association" could cover the continent. The term "library" was assumed by all, and certainly, as professional workers in a

common cause of making printed or written material more serviceable and more available to everybody, the men and women engaged in it could associate together.

The act of affiliation, however, was consummated by a small number of votes of the members of the A. L. A., and now there is something called affiliation with all these various little groups of people, on the theory that they are different in some way from the large body in what they are doing or trying to do.

By the terms of this affiliation, the Council has not only become an unwieldy body, dominated by a few strong personalities, unintentionally, perhaps, but nevertheless, definitely, but an impartial interpretation of the by-law on affiliation between the national body and the state bodies would deprive the A. L. A. of a large part of its financial support.

Section 3a of the by-laws provides that the "privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences shall be available to those holding personal membership or representing institutional membership in the association, or to members of other affiliated associations."

There has been a good deal said about the value of A. L. A. membership to the great group of general library workers, and equally as much said about the cost of this membership to the library worker of moderate income. If membership, for instance, in the Illinois library association, which has affiliated itself with the A. L. A., carries the privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences for the annual dues of \$1 in the Illinois library association, why pay an additional \$2 annually to the A. L. A.? Why? If it does not carry the privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences on account of the affiliation, then there would seem to be a partiality shown to the members of the Law librarians association, State librarians association, and Special librarians association. Again, why?

The Council is made up of the Executive board, the ex-presidents of the A. L. A., presidents of affiliated associations, 25 members elected by the associa-

tion at large from nominations made by a committee appointed by members of the Council, a perfunctory vote by the association being all that is ever attempted, and 25 members elected by the Council itself. The Council at present has a membership of 82, not counting representatives of state associations, which, under the recent by-law, become affiliated with the A. L. A. There are at present 39 state associations, making a Council membership of 121.

The whole scheme is loose and indefensible.

The large membership in the Council is greatly the result of the efforts of those members of the A. L. A. who were not in accord with the idea of having an American library institute. They could see nothing in such an organization except an attempt at exclusiveness, and have honestly felt, some of them, that it was detrimental to the best interests of the A. L. A., and so, in reaching out in every direction to improve and fortify the A. L. A. council which had grown to be a largely superfluous appendage, the present situation of the Council has largely arisen.

Because some librarians, advanced in years and service, thought it advantageous to themselves and to the general development of library work, to come together informally and discuss in a purely informal way with only a skeleton of organization, the tendencies in library development, with the idea of crystallizing opinion or formulating principles that might be used in the guidance of library extension in the larger and more or less uninterested A. L. A., which, because of the bulk of its membership and the multitude of its interests sometimes acts more unconsideringly than the other smaller group, witness the muddle!

But to return to the matter of the Council of the A. L. A. The constitution says, "Any person or institution engaged in library work may become a member by paying the annual dues, and others after election by the Executive Board." This certainly ought to be broad enough to include any individual or group of individuals who may want to

enjoy "its advantages and privileges" without asking for separate affiliation.

The question of funds for the Association seemed to be a large factor in the matter of affiliation of kindred bodies, and state association, and yet, by the very terms of their entrance, the Council has made the Association liable to lose the A. L. A. membership fee of any one who is a member of an affiliated state association. If the state association members were taken out of the A. L. A. there would be hardly enough left even counting other affiliated bodies, to keep it going.

A committee to consider the revision of the constitution again is desirable. A resolution looking to the revision of the section relating to the Council was lost at the Pasadena meeting in a very small vote, by a fraction, largely because it was shifted to the end of an unimportant meeting and many interested, not knowing that it was to be discussed, were absent.

A like amendment will be offered at the Washington meeting. Suggestions along these lines will receive attention in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, and are invited.

Christmas Celebrations and the Libraries

The extra attention given by municipalities and other organizations to public recognition of Christmas in 1913, was followed by many of the libraries throughout the country.

The Christmas tree, with decorations, appropriate ceremonies, and, of course, a general invitation to children, was among the events. Presents to be given to the poor children of the city were hung upon and round the Christmas trees. The business houses were generous in donations. Electric lighting companies made good cheer possible by the multitude of colored bulbs which they hung upon wiring, choirs and singers generally were present to add to the pleasure of the occasion, and of course, much "good will to men" was generated by the Christmas activities in a number of libraries.

Illinois Library Association*

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Illinois library association was held at Chicago, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30-31, 1913, in Hotel La Salle.

Business session

The first session was opened at 2 p. m. on Tuesday, December 30, by the president, P. L. Windsor.

An address of welcome was delivered by Henry E. Legler, librarian, Chicago public library, who spoke of Chicago as a place in which to study tendencies in library work in the various libraries and to study tendencies in the community itself in the general effort to make a city a better place to live in. He spoke of the increased use of the civics room in his own library and showed that the people were using the more serious books in the library to a much greater extent.

The second address of welcome was delivered by Charles J. Barr, president of the Chicago library club.

The response by President Windsor emphasized that in library work there was no division between Chicago and the rest of the state as exists in many other fields but that all were working together.

The legislative committee presented its report through the chairman, Harry G. Wilson, secretary of the Chicago public library:

At the meeting of the Illinois library association in October, 1912, a special committee on legislation was appointed with instructions to secure through the general assembly such new laws and amendments to existing laws as would tend to promote the general library interests of the state of Illinois.

The first meeting of the committee was held in November, 1912, and it was decided that the general program of the committee should be as follows:

First—Secure an amendment to the Juul act exempting the library rate from reduction; or the establishment of a minimum rate.

Second—Amendments to the library act to provide for an increased rate and other changes or possibly the enactment of an entirely new library law.

*PUBLIC LIBRARIES is the official organ of the I. L. A.

Third—The enactment of a law creating an Illinois library commission.

As the greatest and most urgent need seemed to be relief from the operations of the Juul act, it was decided to devote our best energies to this end, and the chairman of the committee undertook to make a personal canvass of the state with a view of ascertaining the library situation in various cities, collecting data showing the effect of the Juul act on the revenues of the public libraries, interesting librarians and directors in the situation, and securing the interest and attention of the local members of the state legislature.

Aurora, Joliet, Batavia, Geneva, Rockford, Dixon, Freeport, Springfield, Jacksonville, Decatur, Peoria, and other places were visited, and the information secured directly from the county clerk. It was found that the operation of the scaling provision of the law was quite general, although in several instances the county clerk "took a chance" as one expressed it and said, "that as long as the question was not raised by any of the local taxpayers directly interested, and since the library tax was very small anyway, he would overlook his apparent duty and not reduce the library rate as a strict interpretation of the law required." The general rate of reduction varied from 16 2-3 per cent to 33 1-3 per cent.

In a number of cases it was found that the libraries did not receive their full rate as allowed by law, but this was brought about by the fact that the full rate was not asked for by the tax-levying body. Take for example, a certain city entitled to 12 cents on the hundred dollars; it was found that the amount appropriated and certified to in the tax levy ordinance would be produced by a rate of 9 cents on the hundred dollars of the current year's assessed valuation. It is evident that the library in this instance might have received 33 1-3 per cent more revenue had it asked for all to which it was entitled.

The next step was to prepare a bill amending the Juul act by which the library rate would be outside the scale. When the draft of a bill had been com-

pleted, it was found that the city of Chicago had an amendment to the same section of the law, and it seemed advisable to join forces with the city and have the library amendment incorporated in the city's bill. As an amendment exempting a tax rate from the scale, or fixing a minimum, therefore, meant a corresponding increase in the tax rate in the city of Chicago, opposition arose immediately from various sources and the committee was forced to look to the down state members for help.

We then made our plans to have the Senate bill, which was the original City of Chicago bill amended in the House while it was on the order of second reading. At this time a bitter attack was made on the bill, and numerous amendments proposed, and there was great danger that the bill would fail to pass. After a consultation with members of the House, who were friendly to the library amendment, it was decided that more could be accomplished by indirect methods than by making a fight for the library amendment.

One amendment introduced by a member from Saline County, exempted all school taxes in school districts having a population of less than 100,000 from the scaling process. This was done not with the idea of giving the schools more money, for there was already a provision in the law which restored their rates to the original figures asked, but solely to give the counties a larger rate. This, of course, would be accomplished when the largest item in the scale—\$1.50 on the hundred dollars for school purposes—50 per cent of the total three percent limitation—was taken out. This amendment would make the Juul act inoperative except in Cook County, and there practically confined to the city of Chicago. To assist in the passage of the bill with this amendment was the course decided on, and the bill finally became a law.

As matters now stand, all public libraries in the state outside of Chicago should not suffer any reduction through the operation of the Juul act, and it is up to the directors to see that the taxes

beginning with the 1913 taxes are not reduced on account of this law.

The second item in the program was not attempted on account of the shortness of time before the adjournment of the general assembly.

In the matter of a law creating a library commission, a bill was drafted and copies sent to the president of the association, members of the Library extension committee, and others interested. The opinion seemed to be that it was inadvisable to attempt to make any change in the control of the State library. Thus it would be better to let existing laws stand for the present. After a conference with the president of the association in regard to this matter, our efforts were directed towards securing, if possible, a larger appropriation for the work of the Library extension commission.

In conclusion, your committee would recommend that a new committee be appointed to carry on the work of the present committee, and that the chairman of the present committee be instructed to turn over to the new committee all memoranda, bills, and suggestions now in his hands.

Upon motion it was

Resolved: That this report be adopted and that a new committee be appointed by the incoming president to carry on the work as recommended.

Professor Nichols of Evanston reported on that library where \$14,000 ought to be available but only \$9,000 is and the treasury is practically empty. The City treasurer said there was only the \$9,000 available.

Mr Wilson explained that the city council may levy up to \$14,000, but the city treasurer cannot pay more than is levied, and that bonded indebtedness for building purposes is outside of the Juul act and its scaling process.

Mr O'Donnell of Joliet spoke of the provisions which should be incorporated in a new library law under the following heads:

1. That the present rate levied for library purposes is not sufficient; a uniform rate is not desirable, but a maximum rate fixed by law large

enough to take care of the largest library, and a minimum rate high enough for the smallest library should exist.

2. That the library board at present has very little power except to hire assistants and sign warrants. It can only lobby with the city council, and it is under its control. It should have greater freedom.
3. That the library board should make official certificate to the city council of the annual amount required for library purposes. At present it *may* do this, but this is not sufficient.
4. Outside of Chicago every city has two main divisions, those inside the city limits, and those outside. It should be possible to create a library district, embracing the township just as the school district now does. He further stated that in Indiana on petition of 50 taxpayers outside of the city limits, showing that 10 per cent of the residents without the city desire to use the library, the privilege may be granted by the city council.
5. That the library statute should be amended so that the city treasurer will not receive a commission on money coming into the treasury and again going out.

The secretary presented his report which upon motion was accepted and adopted.

"Your secretary presents herewith the minutes of the 17th annual meeting held in St. Louis in October, 1912. The same were printed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for November, 1912.

No meetings have been held since; correspondence has been slight.

The treasurer reports the membership to be 122 on May 1, 1913.

Affiliation with the American library association as prescribed by that national body according to resolutions adopted at the Kaaterskill conference will be considered at this meeting.

F. K. W. DRURY,
Secretary.

The treasurer presented her report which was accepted and referred to an

auditing committee, which reported as follows:

Receipts	
Cash on hand October, 1912.....	\$214.75
Dues received to date.....	122.00
Total	\$336.75
Disbursements	
Expenses of meeting, stationery and postage	\$ 45.85
Dec. 30, 1913, cash on hand.....	290.90
Total	\$336.75
I have audited the above accounts and find them correct.	
R. J. USHER.	

Report of council

The secretary read the report from the council as follows:

1. That the secretary had been authorized to dispose of the remaining copies of Miss Sharp's "Illinois libraries" by turning them over to the University of Illinois.
2. That the treasurer was authorized to buy and distribute 1,000 copies of the issue of PUBLIC LIBRARIES containing the official report of the 1913 meeting at a cost not to exceed \$130, these copies to be sent to trustees and other persons interested in library work in the state of Illinois.
3. That the council recommends that the Illinois library association affiliate with the American library association in the manner prescribed by the American Library association constitution.

That if the association adopts this recommendation, the council further recommends that the by-laws of the Illinois library association be amended as follows:

By adding Article 5, "Affiliation with A. L. A."

Section 1. The treasurer shall pay to the A. L. A. in May of each year \$5 as annual dues, as prescribed in A. L. A. by-laws for affiliated societies having a membership of 50 or less, and 10 cents per additional capita as the books of the treasurer may show membership on May 1.

Section 2. The payment of these dues shall entitle each member of the I. L. A. to the privileges and advantages of the A. L. A. conferences.

Section 3. The president of the I. L. A. shall represent the Association in the A. L. A. council. In the event that he is unable to attend, his alternate is hereby designated as the officer elected by the I. L. A. who can attend, taking them in the following order: vice-

president, secretary, treasurer, councillor who has served 3 years, 2 years, and 1 year (taken alphabetically).

Section 4. The representative shall present a report of the A. L. A. council proceedings at the I. L. A. meeting next following, and this shall be part of the regular order of business.

By amending article 3 of the by-laws, item 3, to read.

3. Report of secretary, treasurer, and A. L. A. representative.

4. That the council presents herewith its nominations for officers for the ensuing year:

President, F. K. W. Drury, Urbana,
Vice-pres., Jane P. Hubbell, Rockford,
Secretary, Maud Parsons, Joliet,
Treasurer, Mary P. Booth, Charleston.

Council (terms to expire 1916):

Louise B. Krause, Chicago, Mrs
Robert Bruce Farson, St. Charles.

On the question of affiliation, after discussion, it was

Resolved: That the Illinois library association affiliate with the American library association in the manner recommended by the council.

The council nominations for officers were read, posted, and at the meeting on Wednesday those named in the above list were elected without opposition.

Upon motion of Miss Ahern, who pointed out that the financial trustees might be dropped, and that other library forces in the state might be affiliated, it was

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to consider revision of the constitution and by-laws of the Illinois library association to present its report at the next annual meeting.

The committee on resolutions reported on Wednesday, and its recommendations were adopted as follows:

1. *Resolved:* That the Illinois library association in annual session at Chicago, December 30-31, 1913, appreciates greatly the courtesies received from the Chicago libraries, bookstores, and Library Bureau, from the proprietors of the Hotel La Salle for use of rooms for committee and assembly meetings, from Mr Koch for the excellent library tour, illustrated by stereopticon, and from the Chicago library club for the reception given on New Year's night, and hereby extends to them each and all its most sincere thanks for their co-operation.

2. *Resolved:* That the Illinois Library Association approves and adopts the statement of the Library section of the National council of teachers of English, adopted at Chicago, November 28, 1913, as follows:

In view of the rapid growth of the library and its function in modern education, the Library section of the National council of teachers of English, in session at Chicago, November 28, 1913, presents for the consideration and approval of educational and civic and state authorities the following:

1. Good service from libraries is indispensable to the best educational work.

2. The wise direction of a library requires scholarship, executive ability, tact, and other high grade qualifications, together with special training for the effective direction of cultural reading, choice of books, and teaching of reference principles.

3. Because much latent power is being recognized in the library and is awaiting development, it is believed that so valuable a factor in education should be accorded a dignity worthy of the requisite qualifications; and that, in schools and educational systems, the director of the library should be recognized as a department head, who shall be able to undertake progressive work, be granted necessary assistants, and be compensated in status and salary with the supervisors of other departments.

Signed IDA F. WRIGHT,
ANNA F. HOOVER,
Committee.

The secretary presented the following invitation, and it was referred to the incoming executive board:

The librarian and staff of the Illinois state library cordially invite the Illinois library association to hold its next meeting at Springfield under the auspices of the State Library department. The library conditions of the capital city of Illinois are of interest to professional workers of every kind, and the hospitality of those engaged in library work will be at the service of the association if it accepts this invitation. The cordial co-operation of the Lincoln library of Springfield, both in providing for the meeting and in caring for the visitors, is assured.

Hoping this invitation will be accepted,

Very respectfully,

HARRY WOODS, State librarian.

Special Sessions—

Trustee's association

On Tuesday morning, December 30, 1913, the second annual meeting of the Illinois Library trustees' association was

called to order by the president, James L. O'Donnell of Joliet in the Hotel La Salle, Chicago.

There was a good attendance of members and those interested in the work.

The report of the Legislative committee was made by the chairman, Mr Wilson. An open discussion followed. Upon motion it was

Resolved: That the secretary cast the report and that the chair appoint a committee to ascertain what legislation can be attempted to benefit the libraries.

Mr Harry Woods, Secretary of state and State-librarian, was present and gave a few words of greeting to the association.

Mrs Farson, chairman of the Library committee of the Illinois federation of women's clubs, offered in the name of the Federation any aid needed in forwarding legislation.

At an executive session, the reports of the secretary and treasurer were submitted.

Upon motion it was

Resolved: That the secretary cast the ballot for the re-election of the present officers and the Executive Board.

The meeting adjourned to meet Tuesday afternoon in joint session with the I. L. A. EUGENIA ALLIN, Secretary.

Book symposium

Some books of 1913: a symposium in charge of Ernest J. Reece, University of Illinois library school, was given on Tuesday evening, December 30. The contributors and the books discussed were: J. Christian Bay, John Crerar library, Legros' Fabre, the poet of science.

Emma Felsenthal, University of Illinois library, Maeterlinck's *Our Eternity*.

Cora M. Gettys, University of Chicago library, White's *Lyman Trumbull*.

Carl B. Roden, Chicago public library, Beard's *Economic interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*.

This was followed by an illustrated lecture, entitled *A library tour*, by Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan, who took his hearers through some of the leading public and college libraries of Europe and America.

Reference workers round table

This was conducted by Mabel A. Thain, librarian of the Oak Park public library, and the leading dictionaries were discussed to the profit of those who attended.

Social features

Library Week in Chicago provided other meetings of interest to the members in attendance.

On Thursday evening, January 1, the Chicago library club together with the libraries in Chicago gave a reception in the ball room of the Hotel La Salle with refreshments and dancing.

The registered attendance at the I. L. A. meeting was 109.

Papers Presented—

The first paper on the program was **What we do in addition to library work** by Lorena N. Webber, librarian of the Public library at Jacksonville. After stating local conditions in Jacksonville, Miss Webber said:

Two years ago the library gathered together a collection of the best sewing, manual training, and arts and crafts work done in the state institutions, public schools, and colleges. The exhibit was of sufficient value to demand a night watchman and of enough general interest to attract nearly a thousand visitors during the few days it was shown.

Free lectures have been held frequently during the last 5 years and such representative audiences gathered that it was decided to try a regular series last winter. Tuesday evening was set apart for keeping open house, and during the winter months the audience varied from 50 to 250. Two stereopticon talks were given and several evenings were devoted to reading modern dramas.

The largest number came out to hear the practical talks which were timely. "Beautifying the home grounds" was given late in March, and a bird talk just as the birds were arriving. Two afternoons were in charge of the Domestic science department at the Woman's college; one on "What the housewife may do to keep her family well" and "The well balanced ration." Sixty or seventy

women came out for these. Requests have been made for more lectures on both of these subjects.

There were fears for the success of the February evenings which we called "Little glimpses of fascinating books." Three or four books were reviewed or appreciated each evening. An attempt at informality was made, and it was thought that there might be some general discussion from a very small group such as we expected. Only a dozen chairs were scattered about the room, and the 40 extra people who came carried in their own chairs and placed them at their pleasure. The number increased each evening until the last night in February there were over 80 present. We made the mistake of allowing each speaker too much time—20 minutes.

Books not often read were chosen for the most part, but a variety was afforded by the selection of a few notable new ones. The books which were especially well reviewed have been in great demand ever since.

We are being asked on the street car when our talks are to begin, and the list will be announced the middle of January.

Six persons have volunteered to act as leaders for purely recreational reading circles for working girls—this is intended to reach the clerks and stenographers. A leader of the college chorus will have books on music, heads of departments at the colleges will have the novel and history, modern drama, the short story and art books will be handled by young women who have recently had fine courses in such schools as Smith and Wellesley. All of these people have magnetism, and we hope the experiment will prove a success. The circles will meet once a week during March from 7-8 in the evening, and the girls will be encouraged to bring their lunches to the building.

Some hero stories are to be given to the younger children. These story hours will be planned entirely by the children's librarian, but carried out by young women of leisure and fine personality.

The older girls of the eighth grade are

to have readings once a week from the best poetry. The head of the Oratory department at the Woman's college will start the reading with Enoch Arden. In addition to the other narrative poems, some of the best lyrics will be given to them.

To stimulate interest the program will be announced in full just before we begin. Last year we made an effort to select such titles as would not be trite and such as would excite interest or curiosity. The talk on lawns was called "Back to the land on a town lot," the bird talk "The birds are here again."

A charming and popular man from one of the colleges closed the series with a talk on Samuel Johnson. He was asked to suggest his own title, and he requested that it be "A wise guy." This was rather flippant for such a dignified proceeding as ours, but it was so advertised, and it excited much curiosity because its real subject was kept a secret.

The next subject on the program was **Work and plans of the Illinois library extension commission**

Mrs Eugenie M. Bacon of Decatur, a member of the commission told the story of its establishment; how it was arranged that the State library should take the commission under its wing, by adding three amendments to the present State library act which were hastily written up in five hours at Springfield, passed the last day of the session and \$1,500 appropriated for its annual support.

In the fall of 1909, the commissioners were appointed, but no room for the work could be found in the state buildings at Springfield. Since the 8,000 volumes of the 225 traveling libraries belonging to the Federation of women's clubs which had been voted to the commission were deposited in Decatur, quarters were rented temporarily in the Decatur public library. The headquarters have remained there for over four years. Secretary Woods has found room at Springfield, and the transfer to the state library will be made in January.

Of the \$1,500 available, the salary of the organizer was fixed at \$900, the rent of the quarters was \$400, leaving a bal-

ance of \$200 for other expenses, such as traveling, postage, etc. The increase to \$1,800 by the 1910 legislature was not great; so the work was still handicapped, and Secretary Rose was conservative, and Secretary Doyle did nothing.

The 1913 legislature appropriated \$5,270 which is now available. The commission has been disappointed in what has been accomplished, but hopes for constructive criticism from the Library association. If something cannot be done with the increased appropriation, the new quarters, and the new secretary of state, Mrs Bacon was in favor of wiping out the commission.

Eugenia Allin, organizer of the commission followed with her annual report as it is being published for distribution.

She reported that the work of a commission is to strengthen the small libraries and to give aid and encouragement to communities to establish local book collections. The leading influence in this is the local woman's club.

Most gratifying appreciation was shown by those reached by the commission, and the correspondence is evidence of the growth of the work. With the enlarged appropriation the work should progress in the future.

One of the greatest library needs in Illinois now is a field organizer, to go to a library for a definite period of time, to bring the library up to date through modern methods and the training of the librarian.

Many libraries are handicapped through lack of sufficient financial support, so that the salaries are too small to justify the librarian in spending time and money in professional training; yet the local community suffers doubly. The summer course in library training at the University of Illinois in some measure provides for this, but all cannot be reached.

The growth and possibilities of the work of the commission depend largely on funds: first, for equipment and running expenses; second, to procure competent, enthusiastic workers. A salary

must be offered these which will guarantee efficiency; and the work requires people especially trained for it.

The need for legislation is great. The present library laws are very difficult of interpretation and not liberal enough in regard to financial support.

The Commission form of government law has been declared constitutional, but the present law is indefinite in regard to the library board, its powers and duties, the number of its members; or the commissioners may even keep the library under their control without any special library board.

The revenue act known as the Juul law has caused hardship in the reduction of the library fund. It is hoped that ere long the laws will place the library on the same plane as the schools now occupy, and thus in the educational system, and not subject to practically every law now passed regarding municipal affairs.

So far as can be learned, there are 181 public libraries in Illinois. Of the 102 counties in the state, all but 20 have one or more public libraries. Miss Allin reported 29 new public libraries established in the past two years, and 14 subscription libraries and reading rooms; 17 new Carnegie buildings, with seven others outstanding, six new buildings from other sources.

On October 12, 1911, the Illinois library trustees' association was organized with representatives from 21 cities present, and annual meetings have been held since.

Following this report, Hon Harry Woods, secretary of state and ex-officio Illinois state librarian and member of the Library extension commission addressed the meeting. He said he had come to the meeting on the advice of Miss Ahern and Mr Windsor to ask the co-operation of every librarian present. Suggestions as to the State library would not be unwelcome at his office. He admitted that he was more of a politician than a librarian, but he was willing to learn. He hoped to catalog and classify the 80,000 volumes there, so that the collection could be used not only

by the legislators but by every resident in the state who needed them.

As an additional favor he asked that the librarians present assist in releasing the State library from the provisions of the Civil service commission. This makes it extremely difficult for him to get good assistants at present.

The third main subject was

Work and program of the Illinois Legislative Bureau

This was introduced by Hon Finley F. Bell, the secretary, who spoke as follows:

That librarians are vitally interested in reference work needs no discussion. That the extensive libraries both in Illinois and the other states of the union have not been sufficiently utilized by the law-making bodies is apparent to any one acquainted with constructive legislation.

Governor Dunne, realizing the great good that has been accomplished by such bureaus now operating in about 20 states, and in several of the leading municipalities, urged in his inaugural address certain measures which prompted the assembly to establish a Legislative reference bureau in the state capitol at Springfield in 1913.

The debate attending the adoption of the bill brought forth some discussion as to whether the bureau should be in the executive, legislative, or judicial departments. Some maintained that it should be located at the University of Illinois and many realized that similar discussion had retarded the creation of a Federal bureau, while in the states where bureaus had been established there was no question of authority involved, good results had been obtained, and the unanimous endorsements of the state officers secured as well as the almost unanimous support of the legislatures themselves.

The Forty-eighth general assembly in Illinois finally decided that the governor should be the chairman of the Bureau, and that the membership should consist of two senators, and two members of the House, who were the chairmen of the

judiciary and appropriations committees in their respective bodies. The wisdom of this action is apparent when we consider that the functions of the Illinois Bureau differ somewhat from those of other states. Especially so, in that the budget for state expenditures is to be prepared by the Bureau, which in addition to the collection of legislative data, the clerical work necessary at session time, and the bill drafting department, make four specific functions which the Bureau is to exercise.

The first function is most important, viz: which has to do with the appropriations for the several departments of the state government or the making of a budget for the next biennium the same to be accompanied by a comparative statement showing the disbursements of the fund appropriated by the last session for the same purpose.

Heretofore in our state very little, if any, attention has been given to securing a systematic plan for considering expenditures and estimates. Generally the petitioners secured from the appropriations committee what their requisition called for. There was no time for the committee to inquire into previous expenditures or carefully to consider the justice or necessity of the demands which have been made upon them, and then when the measures were presented to the legislative body, there was still less time for deliberation, and money was generally allowed or refused, according to who advocated the expenditure or retrenchment. Trading in legislation was the result of this system, and the people's money was sometimes diverted into channels which brought but little result; and then again the spending of necessary sums for wise and consistent measures was oft-times prevented. Lack of a systematic method of expenditures, and the want of a uniform classification made for extravagance, and was the means whereby discord and contention were given birth, and deliberation upon constructive legislation prevented.

We are seeking from the various states complete information as to how their budgets are drawn. We have at our

command the reports covering the inquiry of the federal government, and we are in correspondence with the proper officials in both Europe and Australia to secure as much information as possible, to equip us better with the knowledge that will be necessary to frame an intelligent budget.

The co-operation of the several department heads will, of course, be necessary, and if their summaries of expenditures are complete, and their estimate of appropriations consistent, it will allow the next general assembly to accomplish quickly what has previously required months partially to comprehend. The policy of spending money must be scientific, and it is as necessary that every period of expenditure be as earnestly considered as the revenue policy of assessing the valuation of the property upon which the tax is to be collected. We will try to be as considerate in the preparation of the budget of the matter submitted as possible. Like the bill drafting feature of our work, we are largely to transmit the information which is furnished us, and we shall try to make as intelligent a presentation of the matter as is possible with the authority given us and the fund at our disposal.

The acquisition of material is progressing rapidly, and during the three months of our existence we have secured considerable information in the way of general textbooks, encyclopedias, yearbooks, etc.; the federal statutes, the statutes and reports of all the states, and the more recent session laws; prominent works on political economy and sociology, but we do not attempt to duplicate the information that may be found in our state library. We subscribe to the important magazines dealing with economic and social topics, and to all the chief dailies in the United States, clipping the newspapers, and extracting articles which we consider of worth from the magazines.

We make up this matter in book form, under a special subject, classifying the information according to the Dewey decimal classification, providing specific cards for certain articles in the books which we have on our shelves, and we

file the newspaper clippings and magazine extracts in filing boxes similar to the scheme employed in the civics room of the Chicago public library.

Our system of indexing comprehends a large field and admits of expansion when the growth of the Bureau demands it.

We have a comparative index in which we card books, magazine articles and pamphlets which are in course of publication, or the reports of committees that are to investigate a special subject in the various states and cities; in fact, all information which we consider of importance and that can be obtained by addressing the publishers or found in various libraries. Bibliographic information has our constant attention, and up to date information is continually being sought. We card its location, and then if the information is requested, and if we do not have it ourselves either in the Bureau or in the state library, we generally know where to find it. It is our purpose to collect as much bibliographic information from the different state libraries as possible, so as to enable us to place the representatives from the different districts in touch with this data when they require it. We are collecting and intend to publish summaries of the laws of the different states upon current legislation; to make digests of the laws affecting some general subjects; to acquire all the legal information, economic and social help from every possible source, for the benefit of the next assembly, in as concise and brief a manner as possible to the end that with this help they may be enabled more intelligently to understand the problems that perplex the ordinary legislator, and when armed with this knowledge to make better laws which will pass the scrutiny of the courts and be based upon scientific investigation. The help that we supply will at all times be non-political; we advocate no cause nor hinder the collection of information on any subject to the detriment of any party or person; we have freedom of research; we seek the facts and give them without comment to those requesting the information and who are entitled to re-

ceive it. The collection of this data practically sets forth the workings of all human institutions and involves a knowledge of our social system and the construction of our government in all its ramifications. This data we are endeavoring to secure for ourselves, but in searching for this truth we will exercise full liberty, and tell what we find without hindrance.

During the session of the legislature, as the act creating the Bureau sets forth, we shall collect, catalog, classify, index, completely digest, topically index, check list, and summarize all bills, memorials, resolutions, and orders as well as substitutes, amendments, and changes, if any, introduced in each branch of the general assembly, as soon as practicable after they are printed, for the purpose of acquainting the legislative body with complete information as to all measures introduced, and by this process much duplication in the introduction of measures can be avoided.

This system will also enable the members of the legislature to co-operate freely and will eliminate the presentation of many bills, thus affording more time for deliberation which is most necessary for intelligent action, and on the whole reducing the labor involved in securing the adoption of a measure. With the data that is being compiled the legislature can readily secure information on the subjects in which they are interested, and our index system will show what efforts were made in the past to have similar measures enacted into law. This information will guard against the pitfalls encountered by previous Assemblies thus again saving unnecessary labor and making more speedy the adoption of good measures, and more easy the detection of bad ones.

One of the most useful and necessary purposes for which the Bureau may be employed is that of bill drafting, or the preparation of measures, and the giving of legal assistance to the members upon their request. This is a most important work. Bill drafting, while in a sense a science, I believe has not been mastered by any individual or set of individuals,

and those who will undertake it must realize fully that the function of law-making belongs to the people's representatives. Our Bureau will take up this work, fully cognizant of that fact. It will merely act in a clerical capacity, insisting that the users of the Bureau dictate the principles around which they wish a measure built. The Bureau will dictate no legislation and offer no suggestions which might be construed as being for or against a measure. The force which will have charge of this particular feature of our work will have to be extremely competent. They will have to have a clear and comprehensive idea of the subject of the measure they are drafting, appreciating fully the meaning of words in all their different relations, and being ever careful of using words and phrases which the courts have defined, and never allowing the same words or phrases to have different meanings in the same bill; they will have to be acquainted to the smallest detail with the basic law of the state, and to be able to express clearly and succinctly their ideas in words and suitable language which must mean a certain thing and nothing else, making it so clear that those who read it even in bad faith cannot twist or contort it to mean but the one thing. By close attention to these details, we will assure to the law a more ready affirmation of the courts. How to bring all the helps that we intend to provide is a problem that demands great knowledge, skill, and constant practice.

An acquaintance with the decisions of the courts, especially the higher bodies is of the utmost importance, and this knowledge must not necessarily be confined to the courts of the state or the nation, but should be international. The draftsman must never attempt to be a mere copyist. The construction of remedial and beneficial measures depends upon an adequate knowledge of conditions, the most minute understanding of the provisions of the present laws, and the history of their application, so that thus armed, he may be able to help formulate new measures, which will increase the usefulness of the present code, and in

the repealing of acts, to do so specifically so as not to make void certain good provisions while seeking to discontinue the use of bad ones.

In conclusion, the work of the Bureau while at this time in the constructive period is being utilized by many civic bodies and individuals. We will endeavor to co-operate with the librarians in the principal states and cities, with the leading universities, with the different state officials, and seek to equip ourselves with information on legislation that will make the Bureau an indispensable adjunct to the legislature. We will advocate no measures nor swerve from the policy that "we deal in facts," exercising full liberty in our search for knowledge, and giving the result of our research to those entitled without comment or dictation.

This paper was discussed first by Miss Mary J. Booth, librarian of the Charleston state normal school, who emphasized that the merchants, farmers, lawyers, and others who make up our legislatures should have some convenient place, 1) to obtain reliable, non-partisan information upon the bills presented, and 2) to obtain help in the actual drafting of bills; in a word to make legislation more scientific.

The duties of the Illinois Bureau are broader in two respects than those in some other states:

1. The duty to classify, digest, and index all bills, resolutions, etc., and every Monday to distribute copies to each member. Some bureaus keep a card index of bills introduced, but to give over by statute this work of analyzing the bills and even printing them is to broaden its duties.

2. The duty to prepare a detailed budget of appropriations for the next biennium with a comparison of the amount voted by the previous Assembly. This has formerly been in the hands of the committee on appropriations who secured it 30 days before adjournment, resulting in hurried consideration and action. The budget will now be available near the beginning of the session,

and better consideration can be given the different items.

The other two paragraphs in the act provide for a legislative reference library and a bill drafting department, both of which have proved helpful in other states.

Indexes that have proved of value in other places are:

1. Catalog of the material in the library, augmented by that found in libraries in the same city and in other cities. Material giving comparative statistics should be noted in the main catalog or a separate comparative catalog.
2. Index to the state documents, as well as a check list of the documents themselves. This index in Illinois need go no further back than 1904 as Miss Hasse's index would cover the period before that date.
3. Bill index, as before mentioned, extended to include a record of all bills introduced for several sessions back. The history of such bills could then be looked up in the journals.
4. Index to senate and house journals, also an index to the opinions of the attorney general.

A bureau conducted on the basis "we deal in facts" will be of great benefit, not only to the general assembly but to the whole state of Illinois.

Mr Lester of Wisconsin pointed out further the wide opportunities before the Bureau. He suggested one point which was open to question: i. e., the preparation of the budget. He considered this, the point of greatest danger because, to be successful, it goes back to a fundamental accounting system. Also, it may limit itself to a mere compilation of statistics, but it might include some recommendation based on the financial conditions in the state. The Bureau must keep away from politics.

The discussion was carried on by John B. Kaiser of the University of Illinois Library as follows:

Legislative reference work is essentially non-partisan, disinterested and scientific. It has for its object the improvement of legislation. It aims to sup-

ply to the state's law-makers, in convenient form, all the information needed as a basis for legislative action. This includes comparative texts of existing law, definite and detailed knowledge of its success or failure in operation, knowledge of community conditions demanding remedial legislation, and expert assistance in so drafting bills that as laws they will stand the test of the courts both as to correctness of form and compliance with the constitution.

It has been said that the Illinois law is open to criticism on two counts: 1) The tenure of office of the executive is uncertain, dependent upon both the results of popular election and political influence. This tenure should be so secure and permanent that the state may expect to reap the benefit of years of experience.

2) The law places in control of a bureau, which to be successful must be essentially non-partisan and disinterested, men whose official duties as legislators make them necessarily interested in and sponsors for certain legislation, and men who have quite properly party affiliations.

These two defects inherent in the law make successful work difficult. They need not prevent it. All the more credit will be due a bureau which makes a record for efficient service in spite of them.

What special opportunities lie before this bureau?

Among other things, it is given an opportunity to index properly the laws and bills of Illinois; to aid in drafting scientifically planned legislation; and to prepare in advance of the legislature's meeting a state budget. Budget-making is a subject at present receiving careful consideration in Washington, in several of the states, and in academic circles. The Illinois experiment will be closely watched.

In Senate bill 274 as originally introduced certain other duties were specified. Among those stricken out but which may possibly be considered by the new bureau are: a) A survey of the industrial and economic needs of the state with a view to recommending remedial legisla-

tion. b) To investigate and report upon the operation of the laws in other states and countries where such investigation and report will afford information of value to the general assembly.

Quite properly provisions that would have been made the Legislative reference bureau an efficient investigating commission authorized to look into the affairs of any and all state departments were eliminated. Such work can be performed better by some agency other than one specifically authorized to perform the duties attaching to a legislative reference bureau.

No doubt realizing this, the same legislature which created this Bureau established also a State Committee on economy and efficiency which is to examine minutely all branches of the state government—all departments, bureaus, offices, and institutions—with a view to ascertaining how greater economy and efficiency can be effected in the state government by co-ordinating the work of existing departments, and by combining, eliminating, or expanding other offices where better administration would result therefrom.

The present Legislative reference bureau should be able to aid materially in this work by supplying information in regard to comparative experience elsewhere relating to centralized boards of control for penal and correctional institutions, boards of public affairs and the host of other possible substitutes for existing methods of administration.

The question may naturally be raised whether it would not have been well to establish the Legislative reference bureau at the State university instead of at Springfield, or of establishing at least a co-operative office there in addition to permanent headquarters at Springfield. The main objection is the distance between the University and the legislative halls. Recognizing this as a substantial objection what can be said on the other side?

1. The university has better library facilities than are available in Springfield.
2. More experts on subjects likely to

come up for discussion and legislative consideration are available in Urbana and Champaign than in Springfield.

3. In establishing a university bureau, the state would be utilizing existing state facilities, making unnecessary the collection of another large auxiliary reference library, and thus furnishing a concrete example of co-ordination and co-operation in the interests of state economy and efficiency.
4. Constructive legislation is not the result of ready reference work, but can be and has been prepared to advantage at a distance of at least five hours from the legislative chambers.

This is not a plea for a university bureau; it is a simple statement of qualifications possessed by the university which are suited to this purpose. As I am to leave it and the state*, I cannot be accused of improper motives when I say that it is one of the most active and alert and well-equipped educational institutions in the country, and could well handle legislative and municipal reference and research work, were it so authorized.

There is a recognized problem of intelligent legislation. The Legislative reference bureau is one factor in its solution. In Illinois we have the problem; we now have this factor in a possible solution. We can all join in expressing the wish that the factor under discussion prove a major factor in this work.

Miss Cleland of Indiana spoke of the Bureau as a centre of much co-operative work.

Mr Schenck of Chicago presented a defect in the bill drafting power which must be advisory. The librarian collects, the lawyer advises. The Bureau's power must be to collect impartially and to advise on form only. He thought also that the Bureau should be at the state capitol, and not away from it.

Dr Putnam of the Library of Congress discussed the three attitudes of

congressmen in regard to the proposed national bureau.

1. Some do not wish the bureau attached to the Library of Congress on the ground that the library is not a part of the legislative family.
2. Some concede they do not need any aid, and that the information about bills is thrashed out in the committees.
3. Some say the Library of Congress is already a legislative reference bureau.

In regard to uniting the collecting and bill drafting in one bureau, it becomes a question of ultimate expediency. In regard to the budget, will the initiative of remedial legislation come from the Bureau? The study of facts will be there, but can they suggest? The answer must be, No.

Mr Legler of Chicago spoke of the bill drafting as carried on in Wisconsin. This duty was added to the Bureau there with reluctance, because the personal equation bulks so large. The plan devised was to show that the Bureau did not initiate; the legislator dictated the essentials, signed the deposition, and also the printed copy of the bill, thus shouldering all responsibility for it.

He suggested that the Bureau might anticipate inquiry on any subject by building up a body of material on it, taking its cue from the press, but that the Bureau should not indicate what legislation might be enacted.

Municipal reference work of the Chicago public library

was presented by Henry E. Legler, librarian.

A municipal reference library exists for the same reasons as the state legislative reference department. It serves a large clientele—the city of Chicago is larger than some states—with many interests, 70 aldermen, 2,000 city officials, 2½ million residents. For example, it helps the Ways and Means committee of the Chamber of Commerce to study civic problems. It has a room on the tenth floor of the City hall correlated with the civics room in the library. It came to the library in response to a request from the aldermen.

*Note: February 1, Mr Kaiser became librarian of the Public library at Tacoma, Wash.

Since the library has taken it over, the expert catalogers have brought out an index of current ordinances in other cities. Also the material has been organized and made ready for immediate access. The aldermen have taken a new interest, using this department on such questions as smoke nuisance, anti-noise campaign, and garbage disposal.

How much is it used by the city outside of official circles? The entire city is interested. *Municipal Reference Bulletin No. 1* has just been issued on Rates of fare on public motor vehicles in 15 cities, and the aldermen have just appropriated money to continue the bulletin. Last year 9,000 people used the civics room. The question is now how to find room for the people. This is done by keeping out the non-serious users, thus curtailing its use. This is regulated by requiring credentials from high school instructors.

The last subject to be presented was Commission government as affecting Illinois libraries. On this topic a paper was presented by Jane P. Hubbell, librarian of the Rockford public library, who took as her phase of the subject **Commission government as affecting libraries in cities outside of Illinois**.

When one considers that the Commission form of government has been in use in American cities only a dozen years, the number of cities which have adopted it appears remarkable. At the annual meeting of the National municipal league in Toronto last month, 371 cities were reported as having adopted the commission plan, and the number is being added to almost daily. The rapidity with which the movement has spread throughout the country indicates the wide spread dissatisfaction with prevailing conditions, and the desire of the people to establish an improved form of municipal government.

The underlying principle of commission government, and the one which gives it its name, is the concentration of responsibility and authority in a small board of commission of officials (usually 5) elected at large, which supplants the mayor and city council elected by wards.

The spread of the commission idea has brought into being a large number of commission laws and special charters, some of the provisions of which have proven a serious handicap to the libraries affected.

Most of the commission laws have been indefinite in their provisions regarding public libraries, as to the position of the library in the commission scheme, and as to the number of trustees, their powers and the length of term. Consequently we find libraries assigned to various departments in the new city governments, so that some are administered as part of the city's park system, some are under the supervision of the commissioner of accounts and finance, and others are under the supervision of the mayor.

In the Iowa law, which was one of the earliest passed, the library had no distinct place under the commission plan, and the law was indefinite as to the number of trustees. The law was interpreted differently in different cities and differently in the same city under two administrations, so that some libraries were administered by 9 trustees and some by 3; and the power of the trustees differed also. But through the united efforts of the Iowa library commission and the Iowa library association, the commission law was amended at the last session of the legislature, so that libraries in commission cities will hereafter operate under the general library law of the state, except that they will have only 5 trustees instead of 9. The Illinois law was copied from the Iowa.

The new commission law of Missouri which was recently passed applies to cities of the second and third class, and must be put to vote in any individual city next spring for the first time. It is held that none of the provisions will affect the libraries of the cities involved, but this, of course, remains to be seen.

In Galveston, where the commission plan originated, while the city charters gives the Commissioners the power to establish and control a public library, the Rosenberg library is not affected

thereby, because it is maintained by private funds and is not under the city government.

Last December, a proposed charter for Los Angeles which provided for the commission form of government was submitted to the voters and defeated. It was the result of months of study by experts and was much heralded as a model city charter, and yet its provisions were inimical to the best interests of the library. It abolished the board of directors and placed the library with the parks and recreations under one man; cut off the certainty of its .4 mill tax; and placed it under civil service. The library is to be congratulated that the charter was defeated.

In some of the states the libraries are under the control of the board of education and are not affected by the new form of government, because in general the schools have not been placed under the commission plan; Houston, Texas, being an exception, where the school board is appointed by the commission.

In answer to the question as to what effect the new city charter would have on the Dayton public library, Miss Doren writes:

"We are informed by the best advice that we can get, including that of the city solicitor, that the present charter has no bearing whatever on library and school matters. We understand that this is due to the fact that the library has never been under the direction of the city council, but was established as a public library under the original act."

Many things seem to indicate that the men who have made a special study of the conditions and problems of municipal life and government do not recognize the library as an independent educational agency, which we claim it should be. Indeed, the educational interests of the community have been largely omitted from the commission laws, and Miss Alice Tyler, recently secretary of the Iowa library commission in the *National Municipal Review* for April, 1913, deplors the scant consideration which has been given to the

educational function of the municipality, and urges that the many educational agencies outside the school room, such as museums, libraries, art galleries, free lectures, and amusement or recreation halls, having already found a large place in the activities of a city, should receive full consideration in any plan for readjustment.

The suggestion has been made that there should be a department of education in the commission scheme, and the election of a commissioner of education to have supervision of the various educational interests. In commenting upon this Miss Tyler says: "This seems logical, but carried with this suggestion must necessarily be the insistence that each commissioner shall be elected for a specific department, rather than elected as commissioner at large with the assignment made after the election. A 'hit or miss' election of a commissioner of education out of a group of commissioners elected, would be a very uncertain and unwise method of selection for so important a department."

The instances of harmful legislation cited will demonstrate the necessity of concerted action on the part of library workers to secure legislation which will amend or strengthen existing laws, and to safeguard library interests in future commission laws and special charters.

Recognizing this need two years ago, the A. L. A. council appointed a committee with Dr Bostwick as chairman, to draft a report on what the American library association regards as fundamental in the relation of the public library to the municipality. This committee made a tentative report at the Ottawa conference and was continued to embody its suggestions if possible in the form of a model library law or a model section in the city charter. In its report at the Kaaterskill conference it made a statement of the things a library law should aim to do, and then presented a model form of a library law which could be varied to suit local conditions. I will quote briefly from its statement regarding the aims of a library law:

A model library law

1. That the library is an educational institution and that education is a matter of state rather than local concern. If a state already has a good library law which has worked and is working well and satisfactorily to all concerned, local libraries should be left in operation under the provisions of the law precisely as the schools should be and generally are left, no matter what changes in the form of municipal government are contemplated or have been carried into effect. If the state law is not entirely satisfactory, it is better to amend it than to attempt to better matters through local charter. The charter may well contain, to avoid the possibility of conflict, some such special disclaimer as the following: "Nothing in this charter shall be so construed as to interfere with the operation of the public library under the library laws of the state."

2. The library should be assured of reasonable and sufficient financial support, either through the operation of a special tax provision or by the requirement of a minimum appropriation by the authorities. In no case should the existence or value of the library be placed in jeopardy by making possible a capricious withdrawal or lessening of support by the local authorities.

3. The library should be administered by an independent board of trustees, not by a single commissioner, and, in particular, not by a commissioner who has other matters on his hands. In case such grouping appears necessary, the library should be placed with other educational agencies and in no case treated as a group of buildings or a mere agency of recreation. It should have power to take over and manage other city libraries, school libraries, and by contract, libraries in other municipalities or communities.

4. The funds of the library including those derived from taxation, bequest, gift, and library fines and desk receipts should be at the board's free disposal for library purposes including the purchase of land and the erection of buildings. They should be received and held by the municipal authorities, and disbursed on voucher with the same safeguards and under the same auspices as those required for other public funds.

5. The library should be operated on the merit system in the same way that the schools are so operated—not by placing the selection and promotion of library employees in the hands of the same board that selects clerks and mechanics for the city departments, but by requiring that the library board establish and carry out an efficient system of service satisfactory to the proper authorities.

With this definite statement of what a library law should aim to do, and in view of the popularity of the commission plan and the possibility of its adoption in any city, it is of vital in-

terest to librarians that we strive to secure a broader recognition of the library as "an integral part of public education." That we individually and collectively endeavor to secure the incorporation of these aims in our state law or city charter.

At the meeting of this association last year Mr P. B. Wright wrote what will bear repeating at this time:

"Library legislation has not kept pace with the progressive age. Whether through lack of concerted action on the part of library workers, or what in some other work would be called the proper spirit, there has been no real progress in recent years in public library law. We have not striven as we should, have not taken the matter to the people openly and bravely and demanded a hearing, and our reward is the reward of the timid—forgetfulness.

* * * Why should the library lag, or be left in the rear through inertia?"

Why, indeed? With all the agencies at hand to look after our interests? With the A. L. A. committee on the relation of the library to the municipality, with the committee of the League of library commissions; the Legislative committees of the state associations; and the library trustees organized largely for this purpose, why do we not obtain constructive, progressive legislation? Is it because each one of us is not doing our part?

No machinery will work without motive power behind it, and in this instance that power must be furnished by the individual library worker in his or her own community.

In our own state we cannot predict the effect of the women's votes as yet, but we know that they will vote for whatever they believe will better their own city government, so we may expect a large increase in the number of commission governed cities, and none of us know when we will have to deal individually with some of these difficulties. So taking the A. L. A. committee report as our text, let us talk it, let us preach it even, in season and out, to our friends, to our public men and

politicians, to our educational and civic organizations, until the library shall secure recognition to its rightful place as an "independent educational institution, co-ordinate with the schools."

Another phase of this subject was presented by Mary B. Lindsay, librarian of the Evanston public library who took as her subject

Commission government as affecting libraries in Illinois

Gradually the functions of the city have changed, its problems have grown more and more like unto those of a business corporation, and in order intelligently to operate water works and sewage disposal plants, to maintain hospitals, schools, and libraries, to build sewers and water purification plants, a more efficient administrative organization is needed than the large unwieldy councils of aldermen afford.

Like all new movements, the commission plan has its short-comings, its virtues, however, far outnumbering its faults. Among the general objections raised may be mentioned the following:

The vesting of both the legislative and the administrative powers in the same small body of men, thus allowing personal opinion to dominate city ordinances to the detriment of the community as a whole.

The difficulty of securing five men who perfectly represent the recognized divisions of a community and at the same time are properly equipped for administrative service.

The dangers of friction arising from what has been termed a five headed government.

Slow in many other reforms, Illinois has redeemed herself in this important matter, and like "Votes for Women" in Illinois, it has come upon us almost before we knew it, and Illinois is now one of the leading states in this movement, which has made such wonderful progress, particularly in the West and Middle West.

Prof John A. Fairlie of the University of Illinois in the *Annals of the American Academy* for November 1911 gives a

sketch of the growth of the plan in Illinois. He says in part:

"The movement toward securing legislation authorizing commission plan of municipal government in Illinois began during the winter of 1908-1909 and in March 1910, the act was finally passed.

The law is in form of an amendment to the cities and village act, and may be adopted by any city or village in the state not exceeding 200,000 population. Petition may be made to the county judge by a number of electors of any city or village equal to one-tenth of the votes cast for mayor at the last preceding election. The county judge must submit the proposition at a special election to be called within 60 days."

Following closely upon the passage of the law in 1910, nearly 20 cities adopted the plan within the next two years, and at the present time the number is 23:

Cairo, Carbondale, Clinton, Decatur, Dixon, Elgin, Forest Park, Hamilton, Harrisburg, Harvey, Hillsboro, Jacksonville, Kewanee, Marseilles, Murphysboro, Moline, Ottawa, Pekin, Rochelle, Rock Island, Springfield, Spring Valley, Waukegan.

Of the 23 commission governed cities in Illinois, there are four or five which have no libraries, Elgin, Kewanee, and Rochelle have township libraries, and Reddick's library in Ottawa is an endowed library, the powers of the trustees being defined by the will of the donor.

The provisions of the Illinois commission government act were so ably outlined by Miss Anna May Price in *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* for June, 1912, that we can do no better than refer to her paper.

Miss Price summarizes the provisions of the law as follows:

"Under the new form the city council consists of a mayor and four commissioners. They are elected by the people, are remunerated officers, and serve for a term of four years.

They possess and shall exercise all executive and legislative powers and duties now held and exercised by the mayor, city council, village trustees, board of library trustees, city clerk, city

attorney and all other officers in cities and villages incorporated under the general incorporation law of the state of Illinois (Sec. 23). In order to insure more thorough administration, all the civic business and interests of whatever nature are divided into five departments, each commissioner acting as chairman of one. The departments are: 1) public affairs, 2) accounts and finance, 3) public health and safety, 4) public property, 5) streets and public improvements.

By virtue of his office the mayor is chairman of the department of public affairs. The other four commissioners are not elected by the people to their several departments but at the first meeting of the council after the election each commissioner is assigned by a majority vote to one of the four remaining departments. Such an arrangement affords an opportunity for the council to make a reassignment at any time that public affairs would seem to be benefited by a change. The Iowa law possesses the same provision and commission councils have taken advantage of it. Each city council also determines by ordinance the powers and duties of each department and assigns to each certain public affairs for special supervision. Some interests naturally assign themselves to departments, as, the auditing of accounts to the department of accounts and finance; the police system to the department of health and safety. Others, such as the public libraries, do not so clearly arrange themselves.

The commission council as before stated, has vested in itself all the powers and duties of the former mayor, council, and all city officers appointed and elected, *yet it may at its discretion* elect certain officers, among which are three library trustees. The act was amended in 1911 to read 'library trustees' without designating the number, and nothing is said concerning the length of the term of office of the trustees."

As a year and a half has elapsed since Miss Price's paper, we addressed inquiries to all the public libraries in the state which are subject to commission

government to ascertain what if any changes had been experienced.

"The libraries replying to this questionnaire fall into three classes:

"First, those which report absolutely no changes in number of trustees or term of office and whose boards retain all the powers held under the old administration. The commissioners in these cities either have not cared to assume their prerogatives, or have interpreted the commission law as providing only for naming of trustees, the state law still being followed as to number and term of office. The cities thus reporting are Cairo, Moline, Jacksonville, Rock Island, Springfield, and Pekin.

Of the second group, the five libraries reporting have been affected both as regards number of trustees and term. Spring Valley, Clinton, Hillsboro, Dixon, and Decatur were all changed under the original wording of the law to three trustees—four of these libraries reported no dissatisfaction with this, and Dixon claims that the change to three trustees proves to be "a decided advantage, that a board of three secures quick action, as it is easy to get a quorum whereas with a board of nine this is difficult as with nine the work is usually done by two or three." Contrary to this experience, Decatur found a board of three trustees too small; one or two often being out of town, a quorum was difficult to obtain, and after a year's trial, at the suggestion of the president of the board, the commissioners appointed two more members, whose terms are four and five years respectively, the terms of the first three being one, two and three years. The only change in this group of libraries in the matter of supervision, is in Spring Valley where the commissioner of public property approves of all bills. This library reports that the change under the commission form is a decided advantage.

Waukegan stands in the third class by itself, as it is the only library which has experienced a radical change under the new government, and as this library was mentioned by Miss Price in 1912, as an example of how far the authority of

the commissioner can go, we rather expected that we should have at least one fight to report. We were pleasantly disappointed, however, for in spite of radical changes, things seem to be entirely harmonious.

The Waukegan library reports as follows:

The Library Board was changed from nine members to three besides the mayor, the library being directly under the mayor. The city has charge of the library funds, also all fines and collections, and the purchases for our buildings are supplied to us through requisitions to the purchasing agent, which must bear the acknowledgment of the Library Board and the mayor before being purchased. They have allowed us to choose as to where the purchases shall be made. All requisitions can be countermanded by the mayor if he should care to do so.

The Library Board is not allowed to make the selection of the assistants, they being chosen for us by the Civil Service Board, and the mayor arranges the salaries for all the employees in the library. So far everything has been satisfactory as the Library Board, the mayor, and the purchasing agent have all worked in perfect harmony for the good of the library, but it is easy to see how our work would be handicapped if any controversy arose between the Library Board and the mayor."

Regarding the place assigned to the public library under the commission rule, we note that in a majority of cases the library is placed under the department of public affairs, which is under the direct jurisdiction of the mayor.

To summarize the situation in our own state, commission government has as yet made scarcely a ripple upon the surface of library affairs.

There can be no doubt but that this new plan of city government, shorn of its imperfections, will work out to the salvation of the American city from greed and graft, and to the development of all lines of municipal activity to the highest level of efficiency. We surely realize its value in bringing about a more

direct connection between the library and the municipality, thus giving to the governing body of the city a better knowledge of the value and purpose of the library and a better conception of its needs. The one instance, however, of a radical change under the new plan, should serve as a warning that danger lurks ahead.

The fact that good men are now in power and that harmony prevails, should not blind us to the possibilities of friction and the misuse of power. The earliest of these commissioners in Illinois have served but two and one-half years of their four year terms. Changes at the next election may make more radical changes in library affairs. The dangers of uncertain and indefinite provisions of law, have been clearly demonstrated of late. Many of us jogged along for three years unconscious of the sleeping giant concealed within the Juul law until a supreme court decision of last winter suddenly awoke the giant who immediately made away in some instances with one-third of our income.

Clearly the public library should find a place under this new form of city government, a place commensurate with the importance of the library in the great scheme of popular education. The recommendations of the A. L. A. committee on the relations between the library and the municipality seem particularly applicable to the situation in our state.

Surely it behooves us so to safeguard our libraries under the library law of the state, that they may not be subject to any of the uncertain conditions under a changing city administration.

F. K. W. DRURY, Secretary.

"Can any memorial be greater than a gift to the community of an institution for the good of all?"

Marsh, Marie L. Auburn and Freckles.

F. G. Browne & Co., Chicago. \$1 net.

A sure cure for the blues or discouragement or any other attack that tends to make one feel sorry for himself. So touchingly funny are the boys in the tales that one doesn't know for a moment whether to laugh or cry, but finally he laughs.

League of Library Commissions

The midwinter meeting of the Midwest section of the League of library commissions was held in Chicago December 31 and January 1.

At the opening session, 25 delegates were present, representing 13 states. At the close, the attendance record showed 39 delegates from 15 states; Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin. More visitors were present than could be accommodated in the room, all interested in the animated debates. There was not a dull moment in the three sessions, nor a hackneyed discussion. Credit is due the officers, particularly the president, Miss Wales, for the way in which things were kept moving. No topics were omitted, and no session lasted overlong.

At the first session a letter from State-librarian Winkler, of Texas, asked for a collection of cartoons or other illustrations that could be used in a city campaign for a public library.

Miss Stearns, of Wisconsin, said that this work belonged to the A. L. A., and since the League officers are transient, and the A. L. A. had collections for public library work, it could well do work of this kind.

Mr Jennings, of Seattle, asked for collections of pamphlets and articles on practical ways for the establishment of a library commission. This was also classed as A. L. A. work.

The general topic was "Coöperation of public educational forces," and the first morning's discussion covered "Extension work and coöperation with specialized schools of the state university."

Miss Templeton, of Nebraska, opened the discussion. She said that library commissions could do little for students while in college, that the work of the commission related more to home study. Its opportunity for coöperation was with university extension work, also in correspondence courses, in developing social centers and lecture courses. Farmers' institutes, demonstration trains, and county agricultural experts gave the library com-

mission opportunity. Where the commission is not represented, lecturers are willing usually to describe the work of the commission and distribute leaflets. These agencies advertise the commission, and leave it free to concentrate on delivery of books. The great difficulty is scarcity of material of the right kind.

Miss Stearns preferred that the commission do its own advertising, and believed that an agent of the commission should attend farmers' institutes, and distribute leaflets directly to the farmers. This is done in Wisconsin, and the university and library commission share the expenses.

In Minnesota, representatives of the commission go out under university auspices, but are paid by the commission.

Miss Stearns thought the university agricultural colleges should send out agricultural libraries.

Miss Baldwin preferred that all traveling libraries should be confined to the library commission. Minnesota state schools have special aid to buy books for their special courses, which in time will mean establishment of special libraries, particularly local agricultural libraries.

A paper by Mrs Elizabeth C. Earl, of the Indiana library commission, advocated that the library commission go not too far in the purchase of books for special work. The commission should coöperate only when special work has not special funds. Duplication is unavoidable in the beginning of the work, but the commission should learn what the universities can furnish, and provide only what is lacking.

A thorough discussion of duplication followed.

Miss Bascom advocated that all good material, even that obtained from university libraries, and the historical commission, should be sent through the library commission.

Miss Curtis said that in Illinois the university furnished outlines and directed to the commission for books.

Mr Kerr said in Kansas they were five places doing extension work, and there was more work than all could do.

Miss Robinson, of Iowa, thought the

field should be divided into two parts, the work with special students to be undertaken by the university, and the work with general people by the library commission. University extension should be by the lecture method, library commission by the book method.

Miss MacDonald said that Pennsylvania reduced duplication to a minimum by having the president of the state university a member of the library commission.

Dr Batt, of North Dakota, thought it would not matter whether it was one book each in two centers, or two copies of the same book in the library commission office.

A committee was appointed to take charge of national publicity for library commission work as an aid in coöperation. This committee is expected to report at the June meeting.

The committee appointed by the president was as follows: Clara F. Baldwin, Lutie E. Stearns, Julia Robinson.

A friendly feeling toward aiding in the expense of the A. L. A. exhibit at Leipzig exposition was expressed.

It was voted to send the daily report blanks to members of the commission.

The topic for the afternoon was "Study clubs as a coöperative force," opened by Mrs Earl of Indiana. She discussed the work of the study clubs, and dwelt upon the enthusiasm they aroused for library work.

Miss Robinson told of the aid received from study clubs in advertising the commission, and mentioned the 100 traveling libraries given by the State federation of women's clubs. They had also helped pass the library laws in a number of states.

Miss Baldwin said that in Minnesota the secretary of the Library commission was secretary of the Library and literary committee in the State federation.

Miss Stearns thought that a representative of the State federation should be on the library commission.

A paper on "New civic league work," prepared by Miss Van Buren, of the American civic association, was read by Miss Baldwin. She pointed out that civic

organizations have lost sight of their greatest asset, the children. The need of service in making loyal citizens was emphasized. Civic campaigns should start from the known—the home plot—and proceed to the unknown—to the state. She asked that the state library commission and librarians coöperate with civic committees to arrange for statewide campaigns. In Wisconsin, the library commission establishes civic leagues.

The next subject was "Coöperation by the commissions; inter-state relations."

Miss M. Clellan, of Indiana, read a paper prepared by John A. Lapp, on "Coöperative library service."

"Messages from new commissions," was opened by a talk by Miss Borresen, field-librarian of the South Dakota library commission. She explained the provisions of their law, which places the library work for the state under the state library, with an interesting summary of the library conditions found in the field work of the state.

Secretary of State Woods, of Illinois, being State-librarian ex-officio, was present by invitation, and gave an account of the conditions in that state, and outlined what he hoped to do in up-holding the hands of trained workers in Illinois.

Miss Fernald, of Great Falls, Montana, president of the State library association, told of the efforts to secure a state library in that state.

Miss Bascom reported for the Publishing committee on the preparation of study club outlines. After considerable discussion, a committee was appointed to confer on study outlines and report. The president appointed on such committee, Miss Tyler, Ohio; Miss Bascom, Wisconsin; Miss Borreson, South Dakota; Miss Robinson, Iowa; Miss Baldwin, Minnesota; Mrs Budlong, North Dakota; Mrs Earl, Indiana; Miss MacDonald, Pennsylvania; Miss Ahern, Illinois; Miss Titcomb, Maryland.

A vote of thanks was ordered sent to Congressman H. M. Towner, of Iowa, and David Lewis, of Maryland, for their assistance in securing the admission of books to parcel post after March 16.

A vote of appreciation was also sent to Postmaster Burleson.

At the third session, "Coöperation between the library departments of the departments of state, and the state board of education," was opened by Miss Stearns, who presented the library commission side of the question. Her prophecy that the state board of education would soon control library work, proved the keynote of the morning's discussion.

Dr Batt, of North Dakota, presented the school side of the question.

Miss Baldwin discussed the result of too many commissions in state government.

Mr Johnston, new librarian at St. Paul, advocated closer union, the terms of which must depend on individual conditions and boards of control.

Mr Dudgeon objected to libraries in the control of the schools.

Purd B. Wright believed it to be the logical outcome of the social center movement. He preferred five branches in school houses rather than one central library, but he would make a distinction between the library in the school, and the library under schools. The latter would mean a constant fight with boards of education for funds.

Mr Locke, of Toronto, thought the most valuable thing would be a generation of school children trained to use libraries. He delighted the audience with an account of a recent library bill, in Ontario, which required that all members of the public library board should be school teachers. The library as an annex to schools is lost in Ontario at present.

Miss Scott, of Indiana, thought the library committee under a school board would receive scant attention.

In New Jersey, a law has been passed to put the school libraries under supervision of the library commission.

In Oregon, the state library supervises all library interests.

Miss Wales, of Missouri, doubted the wisdom of the library commissions arraying themselves against so widespread a movement for consolidation. The most desirable solution, she thought, would be one head for all educational departments.

Dr Batt favored not one man as head, but three or five, one of whom should be a representative librarian.

Miss Stearns was to finish the discussion, but she said the matter had been summed up by Miss Wales, and that nothing could be added to the suggested solution.

Miss Julia E. Elliott outlined a plan for organizing school libraries by mail. She thought the total expense would be about the same as hiring a librarian at \$75 a month. She asked for suggestions for the use of standard or commercial size cards, for modification of cataloging rules, and other details of the work.

Miss Bascom reported for the committee on the preparation of study outlines, saying that after discussion, it had been found impracticable to ask commissions to contribute toward the salaries of a specialist to prepare outlines. The H. W. Wilson Company was considering the preparation of such outlines, and it seemed advisable to coöperate with the firm. The report was referred to the Publishing committee for action.

It cannot be said that any consensus of opinion followed all these animated discussions. All sides of the question were presented with enthusiasm. If there was a majority opinion, it was that duplication should be avoided, but each department was willing to leave to some other agency the honor of withdrawing from the field.

The full discussions cannot fail to result in a better understanding and continued progress in efficiency and economy of administration.

MRS MINNIE C. BUDLONG,
Secretary.

British Library Association

The annual meeting of the Library Association will be held at Oxford, England, in the week commencing August 31. A cordial invitation to members of the American library association has been extended and the wish is expressed by a prominent official of the Association that the former will "turn up in Oxford in force."

A. L. A. Meetings in Chicago

Executive board meeting

The A. L. A. executive board met in Chicago, December 31, with President E. H. Anderson, H. C. Wellman, Gratia A. Countryman, C. W. Andrews, W. N. C. Carlton, T. W. Koch, H. W. Craver and Dr Herbert Putnam present.

The report of the treasurer showed the receipts for the year to be \$16,692; expenditures, \$13,300; this with the secretary's balance and outstanding accounts, shows a balance of \$4,142.

The Finance committee reported the estimated income for 1914 to be: dues, \$7,200; income Carnegie fund, \$4,200; income endowment fund, \$350; interest, \$60; sales of publications, \$11,100, making a total of \$22,910. The income for 1913 was \$22,484.

A communication from the Permanent committee of the International congress of archivists and librarians of Brussels, requested the American library association, as a participating association in the Brussels conference of 1910, to name two members of the American library association to serve as members of a Permanent committee.

An invitation from Mr L. Stanley Jast, honorary secretary of the Library association of the United Kingdom, was presented in behalf of his association, cordially inviting the American library association to be officially represented at the English conference at Oxford, the week of August 31, 1914.

Charles F. Hatfield, at the invitation of the board, outlined briefly the plans for accommodating conventions and educational conferences at the Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915.

It was voted that the association hold the next conference in Washington, D. C., on some date prior to June 1, 1914, provided satisfactory accommodations can be secured.

Dr Frank P. Hill, chairman of the Special committee of the A. L. A. exhibit for the Book and graphic arts exhibition at Leipzig, appeared before the board and outlined the present situation. The committee had been successful in securing funds for prosecuting the work,

and were prepared to proceed with the collection and preparation of the material if it seemed wise to do so.

The Executive board voted that the matter be left in the hands of the committee with the approval of the president.

The president had appointed a committee consisting of Messrs Andrews, Carlton and Koch to report nominations for a nominating committee. Dr Andrews, as chairman of the committee to nominate a nomination committee, reported that the committee nominated the following persons to act as a nominating committee: A. E. Bostwick, Margaret Mann, Agnes Van Valkenburg, A. L. Bailey and H. L. Leupp. It was unanimously voted that these persons constitute the nominating committee.

Dr Andrews, in behalf of the same committee, nominated as members of the Permanent committee of archivists and librarians, Dr Herbert Putnam and Dr E. C. Richardson. It was unanimously voted that these members be appointed.

It was voted that a committee of three on Publicity be appointed by the president.

On motion of Dr Andrews it was voted that the Travel committee and rooming bureau be asked to make provision at the annual conference only for members of the A. L. A., of the affiliated societies and their families.

A. L. A. Publishing Board

The A. L. A. Publishing Board met in Chicago, January 2, with Henry E. Legler, C. W. Andrews, A. E. Bostwick, H. C. Wellman and G. B. Utley present.

The report of the treasurer showed the receipts for the year to be \$17,548.22, and expenditures, \$16,404.51, which, with the secretary's balance, leaves a balance of \$1,393.71.

The sale of publications for the year amounted to \$11,356.34.

The advisability of preparing and printing additional lists of foreign books was considered and approved.

The secretary reported that Miss Marvin's "Small library buildings" is entirely out of print, and plans for a revised edition were approved. Regret was ex-

pressed that Miss Marvin could not be secured to prepare the revised edition.

The advisability of preparing a list of subject headings for children's books was taken under consideration. The opinion of Miss Mann was received that a separate list was not needed and would largely duplicate lists already prepared for adult work. In her opinion, a pamphlet listing certain exceptions for children's catalogs, and treating the various divisions of knowledge as regards subject headings for children's use, would supply the need.

A pamphlet on "Library publicity" was voted, and Charles E. Rush was requested to undertake the preparation. H. C. Wellman was designated as the one to whom the manuscript should be referred for approval and suggestion.

It was reported that a loss of \$540 during 1913 was incurred in the preparation of periodical cards.

The editor of the *Booklist*, Miss Massee, made a report. She said that very gratifying coöperation was being secured in Chicago and vicinity, at the University of Illinois, and a number of other places. A question of policy was discussed. It was voted that the Publishing Board should consider the advisability of changing the title of the *Booklist*, members of the A. L. A. to be invited to suggest suitable names.

The question of an index to songs was discussed, and the secretary was instructed to ascertain how much interest might be counted on for such a list.

H. M. Kent, of the Metropolitan museum of art, proposed a revision of Sturgis and Krehbiel's "Bibliography of fine arts." Mr Kent reported that Professor W. H. Goodyear had a large collection of notes which would be serviceable, and which probably could be secured for such a revised edition.

There was considerable discussion in regard to printing other material, also.

A. L. A. council meeting

The Council held two sessions, with 39 members present. An interesting fact was the first appearance of accredited representatives of the state library associations which have affiliated with the

A. L. A. These were: Lily M. E. Borresen, South Dakota; Mrs M. C. Budlong, North Dakota; Mary E. Downey, Ohio; F. K. W. Drury, Illinois; W. M. Hepburn, Indiana; Laura A. Spencer, Michigan; Florence Whittier, Missouri; Martha Wilson, Minnesota.

First session

The report of the Committee on relations of the public library to the municipality presented to the Council at the Kaaterskill meeting, (See A. L. A. Proceedings, 1913, p. 243-5) was adopted.

"Greater publicity for the association," was presented by W. H. Kerr, Emporia, Kans., chairman of the A. L. A. publicity committee. The report advocated publicity for A. L. A. conferences. He contrasted the interest of the best British newspapers in the Bournemouth meeting of the L. A. U. K. with the meager attention given to the meeting of the A. L. A., last year. He thought the work must have been done by a discerning L. A. publicity man.

He referred to the very adequate reports of the Salt Lake meeting of the N. E. A., in which education and not politics were heralded. The Associated Press representative of Salt Lake City got his "stuff" from the N. E. A. publicity man. It was telegraphed daily and appeared in 870 papers in all parts of the country. Photographs, personal notes, biographies, etc., were collected, classified, and set ready for use before the meeting. The Salt Lake papers ran from 11 to 30 columns of N. E. A. material every day.

J. W. Searson, professor of English at the Kansas state agricultural college at Manhattan, was the N. E. A. publicity man. Mr Kerr acknowledged his gratitude to Mr Searson for willingness to tell of his methods and results, and also for his personal interest and intelligent conception of the library cause.

Mr Kerr said Mr Searson had accomplished these great results by having, 1) the news sense; 2) the substantial backing of the Salt Lake Commercial Club. The club carefully obeyed Mr Searson's instructions for preparation, paid all ex-

penses connected with his work in Salt Lake City, furnished three stenographers, and "if you want anything else, name it!"

The rules of the N. E. A. require advance press abstracts of all speeches presented, as well as the secretary's copy for the proceedings. Failure to comply with this rule excludes the material from the program.

With the preparation beforehand of statistics, lists, etc., the stenographers made copies of all material, of dictated personal notes and convention news. Mr Searson was always at headquarters, and always had what the newspaper boys wanted.

Mr Kerr urged that these methods might be adapted to obtain publicity for A. L. A. conferences. He thought that the A. L. A. would obtain more publicity if it did not go to summer resorts for annual meetings. He gave his experience at the Missouri-Kansas meeting, in which the St. Joseph papers cooperated throughout, using material furnished gladly.

Second. Publicity for the work in general. The A. L. A. ought to have a section in connection with every national organization, from the Congress of governors to the national labor organizations. Quoting from a friend of the library cause,

Library work is but one phase of the larger correlation with all forms of reading, investigation and organization. The library and the librarian are absolutely indispensable to any progressive worker, whether in iron, wood, finance, art or literature.

He referred to Miss Hasse's recent address in which she pleads for a highly efficient publicity that lets the people get at the library. The duplication of the extension of library work by various state forces, points to the need of persistent, wide-spread, concentrated enlightenment of powers and professors.

Mr Kerr suggested that the A. L. A. should employ a permanent publicity officer.

President Anderson thought that inasmuch as leading papers all over the country have Washington correspondents, each librarian who attends the meeting

should get in communication with his home representative, and supply him with conference news.

A letter from John Cotton Dana, of Newark, was read next. The letter was in his usual strain, in which he finds fault with the name and form of the A. L. A. *Booklist*, advises the A. L. I. to go out of existence, suggests that better papers on general aspects of library work be prepared to make them acceptable to the public in general. He felt that librarians were better listeners than they were readers. Great skill in reading has not been won by librarians.

Librarians travel thousands of miles to talk to one another about their calling, because they are unable to get out of print what the writer of print wishes to convey. They are ear-minded. If the librarians had acquired high skill in the art of reading, they would have been convinced that the things of print were important, and would have already given it more careful thought than could be given here, when read at this time.

He thought it was a great mistake for a quasi-literary institution of 2,500 members, supported by public money, to devote a good portion of its income to the preparation and issuance of a publication that would probably be welcomed by the reading public, and then in effect conceal it from the public as is done with the *Booklist*.

He questioned whether the papers dealing with the general aspects of library work were so strong and original and well-written as to make them acceptable to the general public. He characterized the *Proceedings* as a vast volume of appalling size and thickness, and exceeding dryness to the public in general. He advocated that "nutritious and tasty mental pabulum be injected into the volume, and that there be extracted from it, the Almighty Library Aggregation of piffle and technique which is annually produced; then print it in some taking guise, and induce others to read it."

He stated that the best interests of the association would be served by moving Headquarters to New York City. Headquarters is a center for business, and the business is mostly that of answering letters of inquiry, compiling, printing and publishing. The center of these forms

of enterprise is New York City. Ten times as many library workers, printers, authors, students, publishers, booksellers, and journals are found within three hours' ride of New York as are found within the same distance from Chicago.

It is said that Chicago gives quarters free, New York offers nothing. A few men in and near New York could raise funds that would exceed all that Chicago would offer. He himself would be one to try. Are there any others?

He made a plea for city meeting. The A. L. A. meeting could be held probably in New York, and not have the members led astray permanently. The place is well lighted, and the police are models for the information desks of public libraries.

Dr Hill, of Brooklyn, thought there were good suggestions in what Mr Dana had written. He wondered himself why the *Booklist* could not be made an avenue of publicity, to show that the library is doing something besides handing out books. He enjoyed hearing Mr Dana's manner of communication, but he objected in that he never makes any plans for building up the structure which he is always so ready to tear down.

Mr Legler explained that the Publishing Board had heard a number of times about the *Booklist* from Mr Dana, of his desire to have the *Booklist* changed, to have the matter changed, the form changed, and the character changed, in fact, everything about the *Booklist* changed, except, perhaps, the quality of the paper. Mr Legler thought Mr Dana did not want an A. L. A. *Booklist* published, what he wanted was a literary journal for the public. The Publishing Board considers that the *Booklist* is performing a very important function, to small libraries in particular, giving to librarians and library boards valuable material, giving them knowledge of the current books and enabling them to get an evaluation on them, which it is impossible for most of them under various circumstances to obtain otherwise. That the *Booklist* meets a manifest need is often expressed by library associations, commissions and other agencies. It is entirely within the province of the Ameri-

can library association to vote that the A. L. A. *Booklist* be discontinued, and something else be started in its place.

The criticisms made in this letter have been re-iterated year after year in Mr Dana's communications to the Publishing Board, and have their rise in a desire not to be critical, but to have something entirely different published from that now sent out all over the country by the Publishing Board.

With regard to the publicity, Mr Legler was in doubt whether it would be possible to get the sort of matter that appeared in the English newspapers in the columns of the press in this country. The two situations are entirely different, and the A. L. A. is not prepared to take up the matter as extensively as the plans which Mr Kerr had in mind. He thought there was a good deal more publicity given by the newspapers of the country to library interests than many people seem to think. He had a good deal of fugitive literature in the way of newspaper clippings, which goes to show that a great deal of mention is made of libraries and librarians throughout the country.

In response to a request, Secretary Utley outlined what had been done at headquarters in the way of publicity.

At the request of the Secretary, a committee on publicity has recently been authorized by the Executive Board, which has already made an appropriation for publicity work in connection with the Washington conference.

Dr Bostwick said newspapers are trouble hunters, to most of them news meant trouble. He questioned whether things done at the conference or anywhere else traveled very far unless the trouble color could be put on it.

Dr Hill asked if any report had ever been made in regard to the suggestions of Mr Dana, in regard to changing the name and form of the *Booklist*.

Mr Legler said that the Publishing Board annually reports to the association in print as required by the constitution, and that in some of the reports it had been stated that a suggestion had been made that the name and form of the

Booklist should be changed, and the reason given why, in the opinion of the Publishing Board, at least, it would not be best to make the change.

Miss Ahern said she had often talked with Mr Dana regarding his ideas of changes in the *Booklist*. One was to make it very much larger size, give an attractive cover to it, put it on the news stands all over the country, its contents to be made up by people of national reputation, or at least high standing among literary people, that the librarians should buy this *Booklist* and place it on their desks for free distribution, until, in the opinion of Mr Dana, it should make its way into the hearts of the book-buyers.

She thought the A. L. A. should be more particularly concerned in giving to library workers the best opinions of the new books. This did not mean that librarians did not want the American people also to have the latest and best in the way of books, but the A. L. A. is a voluntary organization of library workers, the great majority of whom pay out of their meager salaries the cost of membership, and it would be hardly fair to use this money paid by professional workers, that they may be prepared to render the better service to the public, for something else for the benefit of the public at large. Librarians, as a class, try to keep informed, not only through the *Booklist*, but in every way, as to the source and character of the printed material in which they try exceedingly hard to interest the general public, especially the young people. She thought Mr Dana wanted librarians to put out a periodical of a literary character, written by people whose names would create general interest by reason of their reputation.

It did not seem to her the association at present could be seriously concerned with that part of the question. It seemed to her the *Booklist* ought to be maintained on as high standards as possible for those who buy books for the library. What more is needed in the matter of cultivating the literary judgment, taste and desire of the general public, should come through an-

other medium than the A. L. A. *Booklist*, though there is evidence to show that it renders this valuable service also. If Mr Dana speaks for any considerable number of members, the fact ought to be ascertained, and for one, she hoped something would be done to settle the matter for Mr Dana, as he has kept up his present agitation for a long time.

Miss Ahern said she wished to add further that judging by the amount of material that got into the daily press, concerning libraries and their work, that it was not fair to say that library work is not advertised. The service of a standard clipping bureau on "library matters" will provide daily, large bundles of material concerning libraries, gathered and distributed by these bureaus every day. Some of these articles have not been carefully prepared, but they compare with other subjects fairly well, and they do show that the newspapers are as interested in libraries and their affairs as they are in any other public enterprise, very much more than in some quite as worthy.

As to the other matters contained in Mr Dana's letter, Miss Ahern said she was already on record.

A motion by Dr Hill, seconded by Mr Locke, that the subject of the suggested change in the *Booklist* be referred to the Publishing Board for a special report, was carried.

The need of uniformity in library statistics was discussed by Dr Hill. He had found little material in library periodicals relating to it. At the present time, there are no two reports prepared in the same way, though they may cover the same field.

After considerable discussion, it was suggested that a special committee be appointed to consider the subject, and report to the Council or to the Association itself at the next meeting.

Dr Bostwick called attention to the fact that a report on uniform library reports was made by the committee on library administration, under the chairmanship of W. R. Eastman, (See Proceedings, 1906, p. 148-53) and that a

form for an annual report had been adopted by the association. The fact that this report was so nearly forgotten, shows a lack of consideration of the subject, which might argue that it would be a good thing to take the subject up again for later discussion, and it was so voted.

"Some points in the code of professional etiquette," were discussed by Miss Rathbone.

The first question presented was that of procedure to be observed in calling an assistant from one library to another. An animated discussion followed on various phases of the subject.

Dr Putnam voiced the opinion of all when he said,

We as librarians cannot think of our subordinates, or of the competition between us and other librarians as though it were a question of ordinary competition, of common commodity or material. Our subordinates, as well as our other librarians are our professional colleagues; we depend upon them professionally in library work, upon their zeal and enthusiasm and professional spirit which is far above salary, and we depend upon their high sense of professional obligation. It is inconceivable that any librarian, asked by another librarian to lift one of his associates into a higher place, should put obstacles in the way of securing for the associate a better position elsewhere.

Second session

The second session opened with a discussion of the "Campaign of library publicity in the general magazines," by Miss Plummer. (See page 41.)

A general discussion followed. Some agreed with Miss Plummer that there was enough literary ability among librarians to write acceptable articles. Others suggested that librarians had not yet learned that craft. Some regretted that only the picturesque in library work seemed to appeal to editors, and that serious work did not find its way into print. Mention was made of several librarians who manage to keep in the limelight almost all the time, and who succeed in getting space for almost anything they write.

The subject was commended to the new publicity committee.

W. H. Brett opened a discussion on club rates to periodicals. Mr Brett referred to the combination which existed

between magazine agencies and publishers in holding up prices.

Mr Hill said a matter of quite as much importance was the quality of the magazine. He referred to the deterioration in periodicals which had taken place recently. He thought some steps should be taken showing the desire to have in libraries only the better periodicals.

Attention was called to the "Periodicals for small libraries," published by the A. L. A. Publishing Board, this, however, being more a selected list than an approved list.

Dr Hill moved that the advisability of securing an approved list of periodicals should be reported to the Council, and a special committee was ordered appointed.

"The treatment of unsolicited gift-material," was introduced by W. N. C. Carlton. The question of cataloging and shelf-room made this a perplexing question. Mr Carlton felt that all material of this kind should not go along on equal terms, with which the Council agreed.

Dr Andrews presented a brief statement of the difficulty of printing A. L. A. cards without financial loss. Re-arrangement of the method of accepting subscriptions and revision of the list will be tried in the hope of adjusting the situation.

Dr Andrews also presented a report from a Committee on preparation of a union list of serials. He said the Library of Congress was considering the issuance of such a list, which was welcome news, as it could be better done there than elsewhere. A question of importance which the Library of Congress wishes answered, is whether it is desirable to delay the work by at least two years in order to include serials which are not periodicals, or is the list of periodicals of so much greater importance that the Library of Congress should be asked to get them out first? The latter question was answered in the affirmative, and the Library of Congress will probably undertake the list. The consensus of opinion seemed to favor the inclusion of only periodicals, if this will expedite matters.

A resolution from the College and ref-

erence section asked that the Association of American universities recommend to the various universities the preparation of a catalog of their serial publications, and the printing of this catalog in a form so arranged and indexed as to make it a useful work of reference, was adopted.

Mr Kerr stated that a minute had been adopted in the Library section of the National council of teachers of English, regarding the status and salaries of school librarians, and requested the approval of the Council.

The matter was referred to a committee of three to report at the next meeting.

Mr Ranck, for the Committee on ventilation and lighting, reported progress with promise of a future statement of the findings of the committee thus far.

A resolution regarding the table of contents for the issue of the *Congressional Record* was unanimously adopted, urging the Congressional joint committee on printing to authorize the incorporation of such a table of contents.

By vote, the Executive Board was asked to provide suitable resolutions on the death of Dr Reuben Gold Thwaites.

An Exhibit

An elaborate exhibition, illustrating the processes by which a book is made, is being held in the exhibition gallery of the Scribner bookstore in New York city. Its purpose is to answer the great popular curiosity about book-making by a series of pictures and objects, accompanied by brief explanations, which follow the work of producing a single book from writing to shipping. A little pamphlet, "The story of the making of a book," was prepared for distribution at the exhibit illustrated to show the processes described. This little book of 36 p. will be sent free, to librarians who may care for them on request to the firm.

The battleship "New York," the largest in the navy, is to have a reading and reception room for sailors, the first on an American war vessel. Secretary Daniels takes this means of making life more tolerable on board ship for the sailors.

Library Meetings

Chicago.—On the evening of January 1, 1914, the Chicago library club and libraries of Chicago gave the annual reception in honor of the visiting librarians, in the ballroom of the Hotel La Salle.

About 300 guests were present, among the many well known in the library world. A buffet luncheon was served about ten o'clock, after which the orchestra struck a new note, passing to most bewitching dance music.

AGNES J. PETERSEN,
Secretary.

Massachusetts.—The Fall meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held in Brockton, October 23, with an attendance of about 300.

Suitable resolutions on the death of Charles C. Soule, of Brookline, one of the founders of the club, and William H. Tillinghast, assistant librarian of Harvard college library, were adopted.

A committee to report on certain tendencies in current periodicals was appointed, consisting of George H. Tripp, C. F. D. Belden, Gertrude W. Lockwood, Herbert Faxon and Mrs F. R. Coe.

The subject of "Library budgets," was presented by O. R. Thomson, of Williamsport, Pa.

Alice M. Jordan, of the Boston public library, gave an interesting address on "Children's work."

An address on "Vocational guidance through the library," by Mary E. Hall, Girls' high school, Brooklyn, was very interesting and enthusiastically received.

A vote of thanks to the Brockton library and to Mr Whitmore for the pleasant, profitable day was passed.

New York.—The Long Island library club held a meeting at the Brooklyn public library, November 13, with Harriot Hassler in the chair.

The speaker of the afternoon was Miss Caroline Hewins, who repeated her address given at the Lake George meeting in September, on "What I've done in starting and developing work

with children in the small country town or city library." She used the Hartford public library as her example, tracing the growth of the work from small beginnings with little equipment to the busy place the library is today. Lists were compiled on all subjects of interest to children, books for supplementary reading were sent to the schools and club work was developed. Talks were given during the summer vacations for an hour each week on subjects covering a wide range. The Christmas book exhibit and the collection of dolls representing all nationalities have become regular features of the work.

Miss Hewins laid particular stress on a few points which experience had taught her it was well to heed:

That in club work the members of each club have an interest in common outside of school work.

That in a Christmas book exhibit inexpensive books be included as well as the expensive illustrated ones.

That during the school year each child be allowed but one story book a week.

That all children's applications be signed by the parent or guardian, thus placing the responsibility where it belongs.

That all fines be strictly enforced.

Miss Hewins also touched upon the extension work being done in the state by traveling libraries and read a letter from a country school teacher telling of the great help the books sent had been to pupils, teachers and parents.

Those who were privileged to hear Miss Hewins realize that a large part of her success is due to the personal touch, the personal interest she takes in each child coming to the library and her desire to enlarge the horizon of each one.

ELEANOR ROPER,
Secretary.

Wisconsin—At the meeting of the Milwaukee library club, held Tuesday evening, December 16, Rev William Dallman gave an interesting and scholarly talk

on "Some lives of Christ: their merits and demerits." The best life of Christ, Mr Dallman holds, is to be found in the four gospels. For the average reader he recommended "Days of His Flesh" by David Smith, which combines scientific method of treatment with entire readableness.

Miss Margaret Reynolds paid a brief tribute to the memory of the late Dr R. G. Thwaites.

JOSEPHINE KULZICK,
Secretary.

Program of Library Meetings in London

The Library Association (English) has issued a program for the monthly meetings in London for the session of 1913-1914.

Those scheduled for the remainder of the year are as follows:

January 8, The library of the Medical association of London, George Bethel.

The relations between Greek mss. and typography, illustrated by some mss. in the possession of the Medical society. J. B. Nias, M. D.

February 12, The public library and the history student. Miss C. A. J. Skeel, D. Litt.

March 12, Associations of Stoke Newington with English literature. W. E. Baxter, J. P., D. L.

Books and infection; some recent experiments. H. R. Kenwood, M. B., D. P. H., F. R. S. E.

April 16, Three phases of librarianship. J. W. Singleton.

The cheap book and its effect on public library work. Norman Treliving.

May 12, Description of the library of the institute of chartered accountants. Cosmo Gordon, B. A.

The classification of pure literature; a discussion. W. C. Berwick-Sayers and Ernest A. Savage.

June 12, The use of the public library by school pupils. Professor John Adams, LL. D., M. A., B. Sc.

A Long Sought Clue

A recent statement of Mr George P. Brett, of the MacMillan Company, speaks of the author of "the mouse trap quotation" as Dr John B. Paxton, pastor of the West Presbyterian church of New York City, 1882-1893, used in the sermon, "He could not be hid."

The Library in Commission Governed Cities

In "A model charter for Texas cities," Professor Herman G. James, Director of the Bureau of municipal research and reference at the University of Texas, recommends the inclusion of a Director of public education as one of the administrative departments in cities governed by a Commission. The following sections and note by Dr. James explain the recommendation and are of interest to librarians as indicating a possible solution of the place the public library shall occupy in commission-governed cities.

Article 6. Administrative departments

Sec. 14. There shall be six administrative departments as follows: law, public works and utilities, public health, public safety and welfare, public education, and public finance.

Sec. 15. At the head of each department there shall be a Director appointed by the Mayor and removable by him. This Director shall in every case be chosen for his particular qualifications in the field of work assigned to him, and shall possess certain minimum requirements of training and experience to be determined by the Commission on recommendation of the Civil Service Board.

Note

(There is likely to be some opposition to taking the management of school affairs out of the hands of special authorities as now constituted, but that opposition is based wholly on the fear of evils that might result from getting school affairs "into politics." But since it is the purpose of this charter to prevent as far as possible getting any matters of municipal administration "into politics," there is no more reason for taking school matters out of the jurisdiction of the Commission than there is for taking any or all of the other departments out. Certainly "political" health administration is every bit as objectionable as "political" school administration. Yet to take these departments out of the jurisdiction of the city Commission and put them into the hands of separately elected boards would put city administration right back into the undesirable situation

from which we are trying to escape. Under this charter the Director of the Department of Public Education would be the same person who is now superintendent of schools, the Commission performing the functions of a school board.)

Haakon Nyhuus

Haakon Nyhuus, librarian of the Deichmanske Bibliotek, Christiania, Norway, died on Christmas Day, 1913, at the age of forty-eight. His many friends in America knew in a general way that he had been ill for a year or more, but few realized the seriousness of his condition.

Mr Nyhuus began his library career under Dr W. F. Poole at the Newberry library in 1891. His ability coupled with unusual energy and ambition soon secured for him a position of considerable responsibility, and in 1893 he was appointed chief of the cataloging department of the Chicago public library, which position he held until 1897 when he resigned and returned to Norway, his native country. Here the agitation for public libraries was just beginning to make itself felt and Mr Nyhuus soon became the natural leader in this movement. He was appointed librarian of the Deichmanske Bibliotek and was in addition from 1902-05 the expert adviser of the Church department on library matters. In this capacity he exercised great influence for good. It is not too much to say that the development and systematization of the whole popular library organization of Norway during these years was mainly due to Mr Nyhuus.

In 1904, he represented his country at the International congress of librarians at St. Louis, where he presented a paper on the library situation in Norway at that time. He was a moving spirit in the recently organized Library association of Norway, so also in the periodical called *For Folke- og Barneboksamlinger*, edited by Karl Fischer, his successor as expert adviser for the Church department. In addition to his manifold library activities he was a frequent contributor to literary and critical journals.

J. C. M. H.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

Training school for children's librarians

The training School opened for the winter term on Monday, January 5. The junior courses for the term are:

Classification; Cataloging; Lending systems; Book numbers; Reference work; Story telling; Book selection; Seminar for periodical review.

The senior courses are:

Book selection; Cataloging; History of libraries.

Miss Effie L. Power, supervisor of children's work of the St. Louis public library is to give a series of 10 lectures to the junior class the last week in January. Her subjects are "Book selection," "Administration of children's rooms," "Organization of a children's department" and "Work with normal schools."

During the winter term the junior students are scheduled each Monday morning for practice in adult routine work in the Central lending division and in the branch libraries.

Seven members of the junior class held part time substitute positions on the staff of the library during the Christmas recess.

Dr Charles A. Eastman, Indian author and lecturer, talked to the students December 19th upon Indian life.

Miss Corinne Bacon, librarian and director of the library school, Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., gave a lecture January 9, upon "What it means to be a librarian."

Alumnae notes

Margaret Louise Bateman, '10, has been appointed assistant in the Soho children's room, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Phyllis E. Murray, '13, has been appointed children's librarian in the Public library, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Emma Dunham Lee, '11, has been appointed librarian of the Davis library of Highway engineering, Columbia university, New York City.

Lesley Newton, '13, has been appointed assistant-in-charge of the Soho children's room, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth Hoard Dexter, '14, has been

appointed children's librarian in the Detroit public library, Detroit, Mich.

S. C. N. BOGLE.

University of Illinois

The course of lectures given by persons not connected with the University of Illinois faculty was continued in December by George B. Utley, executive officer of the American library association, who appeared twice before the library school, faculty and staff of the University library, on December 17 and 18. In his first lecture, Mr Utley gave an hour's talk filled with practical suggestions on "A library diagnosis." He advised librarians to follow the custom of the heads of great manufacturing plants in looking over their plant occasionally to see where a break might possibly come and to guard against a future weakness. He advised young librarians not to be carried away so completely by the duties of the day that they are unable to consider where they are going and whether they are going by the best way. He made a plea for a fairer division of time and money between the records department and the public. The advertising value of a well-lighted, neat and attractive building was also mentioned. Mr Utley warned his hearers that a big circulation is not always an index to the library's usefulness, and advised librarians to get the support of different institutions in their communities, and not to advertise service which they were not in a position to offer. The second lecture, next morning was a presentation of the work of the American Library Association.

At the January meeting of the Library club, the speaker of the occasion was Professor A. H. Lybyer, who gave an interesting talk on Constantinople, illustrated with the stereopticon. Professor Lybyer is a member of the History Department of the University and is regarded as one of the best authorities on the Near East.

The appointment of John B. Kaiser to the librarianship of the Public library of Tacoma, Washington, has necessitated a slight change in the order of some of the school work. Mr Kaiser's lectures were

given during the last three weeks in January. Mr Kaiser gave 10 lectures on legislative and municipal reference.

During the mid-winter library meetings in Chicago, the following members of the faculty and school were present: From the faculty, Director Windsor, Mr Drury, Miss Curtis, Mr Reece, Miss Bond, Miss Felsenthal, and Miss Jutton, and from the school, Rose Sears of the senior class and Alma Penrose, and Thomas P. Ayer of the junior class.

Bess Everett Wilson, B. L. S. 1907, has resigned her position as librarian of the Southern Illinois normal school at Carbondale, and is now connected with the John Crerar library in Chicago.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

New York public library

The Christmas vacation began on December 19, with Christmas festivities, and school re-opened on January 5.

During the last two weeks of the term, Miss M. E. Robbins spent several mornings attending recitations, examining equipment, and looking over the school-schedules, as a beginning of her work of inspection for the A. L. A. committee on training.

The interest of the first week of the second term centered on binding, owing to a visit to the Tapley bindery with Miss Murray and Mr Bailey, two of the A. L. A. committee on binding, and two lectures from Mr Bailey, on Binding materials and Binding procedure. A tea followed the second lecture.

Miss Murray's demonstration lectures on repairing and rebinding follow Mr Bailey's shortly, and the actual work of sewing and binding is given in the spring term.

An experiment in dividing the junior class will be tried during the coming term, in the course in "Appraisal of fiction." Mary Ogden White, a well-known reviewer and critic, will meet some of the students each week in the seminar room to consider the same books and authors assigned to the other division of the class, handling the work, however, somewhat differently.

MARY W. PLUMMER,
Principal.

New York state library

A joint meeting of the staff of the State library and the Library school was held in the school's larger lecture room on the afternoon of Dec. 18. Mr Wyer made a brief address and was followed by Mr J. A. Kudalkar, director of State libraries, Baroda, India, who described briefly the recent library development in his state. The chief address was made by the new president of the University of the State of New York, Dr John H. Finley who spoke most interestingly of his own brief experience a college librarian and his conception of the library's place in education. After the meeting all those present at the staff meeting were tendered an informal tea by the faculty of the school.

Plans for the summer school are nearing completion. The proposed plan of dividing the work into two short courses of three weeks each beginning respectively June 3 and June 25, 1914, and devoting the first to reference work in its broad sense and the second to the technical subjects, cataloging and classification has been approved by a considerable number of librarians of the state to whom letters of inquiry were sent. A special circular is in preparation and further details of the course will be published later.

Alumni notes

Elza K. Carnegie, '10-'11, has been promoted from the position of readers' assistant at the central building of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh to the headship of the Wylie Avenue branch.

Margaret S. Dick, '12-'13, has resigned her place on the staff of the Detroit public library to accept a position in the library of the Kansas State normal college at Emporia.

Florence M. Dean, summer session, 1913, has resigned her position as junior assistant in the Brooklyn public library to become assistant in the 176th Street branch of the New York public library.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

It has been the policy of the school to send out questionnaires to its graduates from time to time to collect information

regarding their positions, the kinds of work done, the hours a week required, the vacation privileges enjoyed, and their salaries. A questionnaire of this sort was sent out in November, and while full returns have not yet come in, about 225 graduates have been heard from, and it is possible to draw certain rather interesting conclusions from their reports.

By far the larger number of our graduates are in public libraries, but there are about 40 in school and college libraries, 20 or more in state library and library commission work, and 27 in special libraries,—law, medical, engineering, scientific, and business libraries. While 42 hours work a week seem to be still the norm, we find that 95 of our graduates work less than 42, while only about 30 report more than 42 hours. An increasing number report that no time specification is made, the tendency being, apparently, to leave people in executive positions to determine their own schedules. One month is preponderatingly the accepted period for public library vacations; 128 have so far reported one month vacations, only 19 two weeks (they being for the most part in business positions), 20 receive three weeks, and something over 30 fortunate ones report from six weeks to three months (those being for the most part in school and college library positions). A report will be made as to salaries and kinds of positions when more complete returns have been received.

The usual Christmas party took place in the north class-room on Thursday afternoon, December 18. The "will" of the class of 1913 addressed to that of 1914 and containing the amusing results of the year's experiences was read.

The first lecture of the second term was given by Miss Theresa Hitchler on the organization and work of the cataloging department of the Brooklyn public library.

Alumni notes

Miss Lillian Burt, class of 1902, formerly cataloger at the University of California library, is now librarian at Hilo, Hawaiian Islands.

Mary Frank, class of 1908, formerly

first assistant in the Bloomingdale branch of the New York public library, has been made librarian of the Public library at Everett, Washington.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

Simmons college

The college closed on December 19 for the Christmas recess, reopening on January 5. The students, with renewed energy, made the most of the rest of the term, which culminated in the midyear examinations, January 21-31.

Two members of the one-year course utilized the vacation for valuable practice work; Elva Greef reorganizing the library of the Boston Y. M. C. A., and Miss Edith Phail working in the children's room and in the new Sewall Avenue reading room of the Brookline public library.

Miss Donnelly and Miss Ridlon attended the round table of Library schools in Chicago, January 2.

Afternoon visits have been made to the special library of Stone and Webster, and to the Boston Book Company, and on Saturday, January 10, the seniors and college graduates, with Miss Hill, spent the day in Worcester, visiting there the Public library, the Worcester County law library, and the libraries of Clark university and the Antiquarian society.

Lectures have been given by visitors as follows:

Nov. 20. Book buying from a bookseller's point of view, by W. B. Clarke, of Boston.

Dec. 2. Work with the blind, by Laura M. Sawyer of the Perkins institute for the blind.

Dec. 4. Auction buying, by C. K. Bolton.

Dec. 17. The library of the W. E. I. U. by Miss Johnson, librarian of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston.

Jan. 8. The Harvard University library, by W. C. Lane.

The last was illustrated by stereopticon views, chiefly of Harvard's new building.

Both the lantern and the reflectoscope are available to exhibit illustrative material, the latter making it possible to utilize post-card collections and illustrations in books. Miss Hill has taken advantage of it in the course on library buildings

and it is proposed to utilize it as freely as possible for other courses.

Graduate notes

Margaret E. Becker, '12. Resigned from the Worcester County law library to accept a position in the University of Rochester library.

Mary Dunbar, '11. Resigned from Mt. Holyoke College library to take up the work of assistant in the Grove City College library, Grove City, Pa.

Mabel Eaton, '10, has accepted position of head cataloger at Williams college.

Isabel Monro, '07, is now on the staff of the Columbia University library.

Lucy Osborne, special student, 1907-09, has accepted the position of general assistant at Williams College library.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY.

Western Reserve university

The school entertained the apprentice class of the Cleveland public library on December 19, at tea, after which the guests of the afternoon accompanied the students to the College for Women campus to hear the Christmas carols sung by the College glee club.

The first assignment for loan practice in the various branches of the Cleveland public library has been completed and a series of visits to the branches and departments of the library system has been begun under the direction of Miss Eastman in connection with her Library administration course.

During the past month besides the regular faculty lectures the students have had the pleasure of hearing Professor Arbuthnot of Adelbert college discuss the books on economics in a very interesting and original manner. On January 6, Miss Bacon, director of the Library school of Drexel Institute, was an honored guest at the school and spoke to the class, her subject being, "What it means to be a librarian." The following day she spoke to the staff and training class of the Cleveland public library, where the Library school students were again privileged to hear her.

Alumnae news

Mary Scott Wallis, '06 who has been the temporary assistant-municipal reference librarian of the Cleveland public library, is now head of the Department of public documents at the Free library of Philadelphia.

Bertha R. Barden, '07 has resigned her position as cataloger in the St. Paul public library to accept the position of assistant-librarian in the North Dakota Agricultural College library at Fargo.

Mabel Jones, '08 has resigned her position as librarian of the public library of Charleston, W. Va., to become librarian of the State department of archives and history.

Eva M. Morris, '12 has been appointed municipal reference librarian of the Cleveland public library.

Emma Hulings, '13 was married December 31 to Frank Everheart Stewart of Oil City, Penn.

Alice S. Tyler.
Director.

University of Wisconsin

In the death of Dr Reuben Gold Thwaites the school has suffered an irreparable loss. As vice-chairman of the Wisconsin library commission, he was, from the very inception of the school, its wise counselor and staunch supporter. All who have been connected with the school, either as faculty or students, well know how much his counsel and friendship will be missed. His memory is a blessed heritage to all whose lives he touched.

The daily work of the school has progressed on its even way, with lessons, lectures, practice work, required reading and study, and apprentice appointments; the changes made in the established schedule as announced in the last report are working out satisfactorily. Since the last report special lectures have been given as follows:

October 22. The Wisconsin idea—Dr Charles McCarthy.

October 31. Evaluation of books in American history—Dr C. R. Fish, professor of American history.

November 12. Source material in the Wisconsin historical library—Dr Root, professor of American history.

November 14. The Problem of public library service for the rural population—Mr S. H. Ranch, librarian of Grand Rapids (Mich.) public library.

November 19. Nature and value of good binding—Cedric Chivers.

December 1. The arts of illustration—Dr

Theodore W. Koch, librarian of the University of Michigan.

December 3 and 5. The remodeling of a library system—Henry E. Legler, librarian of the Chicago public library. Two illustrated lectures on the library problem in Chicago.

December 11. The library spirit—Miss L. E. Starns.

December 13. Annual exhibition arranged by the students, illustrating the work and characteristics of American publishing houses.

After all these lectures, opportunity was given for informal conference with the speakers, discussing the points of the lecture in order to correlate the practice of different libraries with the daily lessons in the school, either for the emphasis of contrast or similarity in methods. Discussion of different methods is especially invited that the students may have a broad outlook upon the whole field of library work. Some of the lectures were followed by exhibitions.

Recent class elections resulted as follows: Miss Callie Wieder, of West Branch, Iowa, was elected president; Miss Mary B. Kimball, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, vice-president; Miss Louise C. Grace, Detroit, secretary, and Miss Jennie W. McMullin, Madison, treasurer.

On the occasion of Mr Chivers' visit an informal tea was given at the rooms of the school, that all might have an opportunity to meet him.

On December 4, Mr and Mrs Dudgeon entertained the faculty and students of the school at their home in honor of Mr Legler.

Miss Frederickson entertained for all connected with the school at her home with a Christmas party on December 20.

Helen Gorton '07, will organize the Plymouth (Ind.) public library during the ensuing year.

Mrs Gladys Tallett Waterick, '08 and Ruth Balch, '12 visited the school during November.

Mrs Eugenia Marshall Rainey, '09 has been appointed a trustee of the Salem (Ill.) public library, and is chairman of the book committee.

Grace Foland, '10, will commence work as cataloging assistant in the Helena (Mont.) public library in January.

Ruth P. Hughes, '10, children's librarian, Freeport, Ill., is on leave of absence for the winter, and is enjoying the months in California.

Corina L. Kittelson, '10, has accepted a position in the cataloging department of the Denver public library.

Grace Woodward, '10, was married on December 20, to Dr Walter R. Smith of the Kansas State normal school, Emporia.

Emma Wald, '10, resigned as cataloger in the Racine public library to become cataloger in the library of the Milwaukee State normal school.

Dorothy Kantz, '11 went to the Public library of Des Moines, Iowa, as cataloger, on November 1.

Zela Smith, '11 was married on November 15 to Arthur MacArthur, Jr. of Minneapolis. She has been assistant in the Superior (Wis.) public library since graduation.

Dorothea C. Heins, '12 resigned her position in the Montgomery (Alabama) public library to become head of the circulation department in the Public library at Superior, Wis.

Illinois summer library school

The fourth summer session of the University of Illinois library school will begin June 22, 1914, and continue six weeks. The courses are open to progressive librarians, library assistants, teacher-librarians, and to those under appointment to such positions. No entrance examinations are required; no credit is given toward a degree. No fee will be charged students entering from libraries within the state of Illinois; the fee for others is \$12.

For further information address the Director of the Library School, Urbana, Ill.

The County Library Plan in Minnesota

The Public library of Moorhead, Minn., has adopted the county plan, under the provision of a law passed by the legislature last winter. Three distinct lines of extension will be carried out.

1. Any single resident may come to the library and draw the books out.

2. A system of traveling libraries will be sent out from the central library to the different towns in the county.

3. Library privileges will be extended to the schools in Clay County, in which Moorhead is situated.

Jessie Whitman, the librarian of the Public library at Moorhead, is enthusiastic over the prospect, and is working to bring about complete success in the plan.

Interesting Things in Print

The Library of Congress has issued a list of publications by the library since 1897.

The Public library, Kansas City, Mo., has issued a reading list on "Commission government."

"Some institutional library problems," by Julia A. Robinson, supervising librarian of state institutions of Iowa, is an impartial review of the subject of institutional libraries, with suggestions for their further organization and consequent usefulness.

Florence M. Hopkins, librarian of the Detroit central high school, has compiled a booklet containing "1,000 allusions met with in reading or lectures." They are selected especially for high school students, but in reality would be helpful to any one engaged in literary work.

The Book production committee of the Library Association, (English) has issued an Interim report on their investigation. The committee has been at work for several years and has reached the point where further criticism, suggestion or support is desirable.

Handbook of the John Crerar library, Chicago, is issued as a convenient means of answering many questions in regard to the history, present condition and plans for the future of the library. It is a revision and extension of a sketch prepared by the librarian and published in the Chicago library club's "Libraries of Chicago."

The Brooklyn public library has issued a list, "Books that girls like," in answer to a need felt in the branches of the Brooklyn public library. The list is intended for girls who have not had school training beyond the grammar grades, and is made up from the point of view of girls who are working and who have conferred with the assistants in the Brooklyn library as to what should go on such a list.

The addresses delivered at the laying of the corner stone of the Public library building of Brockton, Mass., May 15,

1912, and also the addresses made at the dedication of the building a year later, have been gathered into a pamphlet issued by the Board of trustees of that library.

Addresses were made at the corner stone laying by Horace Richmond, president of the Board of trustees, Mayor Harry C. Howard, and the Hon. Jonathan White.

At the dedication, addresses were made by Horace C. Wadlin, librarian of the Public library, Boston, Mass., Horace Richmond, and Mayor Charles C. Hickey.

The Bulletin of bibliography, which has been published quarterly since 1897, begins a new series, enlarged, with the number for January, 1914. The changes, in addition to new style and color of cover, are the addition of a department of Applied economy. "Helpful hints" are happy thoughts of different librarians which have been put into practice in different libraries. There is also a beginning of a series of portraits of librarians and bibliographers, each to have a biographical sketch. The current number has a fine likeness of Justin Winsor, first president of the A. L. A., and a sketch of his life by William E. Foster, of Providence. The usual departments continue their high standard.

The Cleveland public library has issued a list of 75 books of adventure for boys and girls, prepared by the Children's department. The list is annotated, and is a valuable guide not only for librarians, but for teachers and parents.

A new plan of annotation appears in this list. The most of the notes are in three paragraphs. The first paragraph is a brief summary of the plot or scope of the book, directed to the attention of the child; the second suggests to him additional reading along lines of similar interest; the third gives information of interest to the parent or teacher.

This list of 75 books is an advance section of a long list with the same plan of annotation, to be published later.

News from the Field

East

The will of the late Dr H. P. Amen, principal of Phillips Exeter academy, bequeathes a sum of money to the academy, which will accumulate and be managed in such a way as to provide an endowment for the founding of a library and its later support.

In addition, Dr Amen's library of 10,000 volumes has been given to the academy.

An important gift to the University of Maine, College of law library is the "History of land titles in Massachusetts," by James Sullivan, attorney-general of that commonwealth, and printed in Boston in 1801. The volume contains the principles of common law, the properties of the aborigines, acquiring of rights by Europeans, conveyances to the first settlers, etc., going into much interesting and important historical detail and ending with general observations on the principles of law and government in Massachusetts.

Mary A. Richardson, long and favorably known among New England librarians, died at Middletown, Connecticut, December 5. Miss Richardson attended the Columbia training school for librarians when it was first established, and was librarian of the New London public library from 1891 to 1901, when she resigned. About five years ago she moved to Middletown and became assistant librarian in the Wesleyan university library. She had a large circle of devoted friends who will mourn her loss. Her brother, Dr E. C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton university, is now abroad.

Central Atlantic

Ono M. Imhoff, N. Y. S. L. S., '98, has been appointed librarian of the International Health Commission, Washington, D. C.

Agnes H. MacAlister, Drexel '06, has been appointed cataloger in the library of the American philosophical society, Philadelphia.

Anna R. Phelps has been re-instated as library organizer for the New York

state library. It will be remembered that the appropriation for the New York state library was cut quite a good deal, including two positions under the field inspection work. Miss Phelps has been re-organizing libraries in New York state in various places since October.

The New York public library has received a valuable collection of more than 200 volumes relating to Emperor William II of Germany as a gift from Dr John A. Mandel of Bellevue hospital. The collection is supposed to be the largest in existence and covers the whole reign of the Emperor down to date.

Isabel Du Bois, Drexel, '11, has resigned her position as branch librarian at Fort Wayne, Indiana, to accept the position of children's librarian in the City library, Poughkeepsie, New York.

In the death of Dr S. Weir Mitchell, January 4, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the oldest circulating library in the country, founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin and his friends, loses its presiding director. He had been a director since April, 1875. He was regular in his attendance at board meetings, and took great interest in the work of the institution.

A library of unpublished books in the possession of Bertram Dobell, who had been 40 years in collecting it, has been obtained by the Library of Congress. It contains 1,500 works, which have passed under the scrutinizing judgment of a distinguished and discriminating bibliophile. Mr Dobell's library, according to the *Dial*, was unmatched in the whole world as "an assembly of literary aristocrats."

William C. Kimball, who was chairman of the New Jersey library commission from its organization in 1902, died at his home in Passaic, January 17. Mr Kimball had been for many years president of the Passaic board of library trustees, and one of the trustees of the Carnegie endowment fund of the A. L. A. He served on the A. L. A. committee on library training and was at one time a member of the council. He was large-

ly responsible for the New Jersey library commission and for the present library law.

The Public library of Trenton, N. J., has received a gift of \$50,000 from John L. Cadwalader of New York City, to enlarge and re-arrange the present public library building of the city.

Mr Cadwalader, while a successful business man in New York City, was born in Trenton and has always kept his interest in its library, which was originally established through the interest of one of his ancestors. He has at various times given money for the purchase of special technical books for the Trenton public library. He is a member of the Board of trustees of the New York public library.

The annual report of the Library school of the New York public library, covering the school year 1912-13, the second of the school's existence, deals with the school-enrolment, 69, the addition to the faculty of Miss Catherine S. Tracey, and to the equipment, of a seminar-room, indirect lighting, new book-cases, sewing-benches and tools for simple binding, and the accession of books and pamphlets, the collection of these numbering 2473 on July 1, 1913. A museum-case is also one of the features of the new equipment.

Under the head of lectures, Library visits, School functions, Visitors, Class organization, Printed work of students, Records, Publications, Professional activities of the Faculty, Exhibits, Practice, Curriculum, and commencement, the many activities of the School are described, the paragraph on Housing and health and on Appointments dealing with the personal situation and post-graduate activities of students.

The appendices include the enrollment to date, lists of lecturers to both classes, of libraries visited, and the names of the class of 1913 and the certificate-holders of the same year.

Central

Frank A. Hutchins the father of the Wisconsin library commission died in Madison, Wis., January 26.

Augusta McCrackin, for 19 years librarian of the Public library at Bucyrus, O., has resigned her position.

Vera Snook, B. A., M. A., has been elected librarian of the Reddick library at Ottawa, Ill., to succeed Harriet C. Nash, resigned.

Dr John W. Perrin, librarian of Case library, Cleveland, has been elected president of the board of education of that city.

Winifred James, for the past year librarian of the Allerton library, Monticello, Ill., has resigned her position. Lena Bragg has been appointed her successor.

Vera Price, Western Reserve '09, for some time assistant-librarian of the Alliance branch of the Cleveland public library, has been made librarian of the Public library at Bucyrus, Ohio.

Lois Compton, who is largely responsible for the recent public library established at Newcastle, Ind., has been appointed librarian.

Bessie Kent, for several years past librarian of the Public library of Kent, O., died December 22, after only one day's illness with pneumonia.

The report of the Public library of Burlington, Ia., for 1913, shows a circulation of 101,945 volumes, a gain in every class of reading except fiction and biography.

The plans for the new main building of the Detroit public library were on exhibition at the Art institute, Chicago, in December. They attracted a good deal of attention and comment.

Miss E. Burdsall Harvey, for several years librarian of the Madisonville branch of the Cincinnati public library, died December 9. Miss Harvey had been especially successful in her work.

The Public library of St. Joseph, Mo., has added 500 stereopticon slides. These cover views in South America, Mexico, Great Britain and the United States. The slides are available to any one having a stereopticon machine and may be drawn out the same as books.

The annual report of the Public li-

brary of Elkhart, Ind., Ella Corwin, librarian, records a circulation of 73,400 volumes. Number of cardholders, 7,511. Number of books on shelf, 21,621. The income for the year was \$6,301; disbursements, \$6,248.

John B. Kaiser, formerly of the Texas state library, and for some time librarian of the Department of economics and sociology at the University of Illinois library, has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Tacoma, Wash., to succeed Franklin F. Hopper, resigned.

The Chicago public library opened on the first of the year, the second series of free readings for the blind of Chicago in the main building and 26 branches. The readings are given through the co-operation of 45 organizations affiliated with the Conference of Jewish women's clubs. There are 150 readers selected from a large number of volunteers, and the work will continue for the next six months, simultaneously twice a month in all the libraries.

Henry N. Sanborn, for the past year librarian of the University club, Chicago, has been appointed secretary of the Indiana library commission to succeed Carl H. Milam. Mr Sanborn is a graduate of Dartmouth college and took his master's degree at Yale. He also studied at Harvard and for almost two years in the New York state library school. In addition, he has had considerable experience as a teacher of English in various high schools, at Phillips academy, Andover and Dartmouth college. Mr Sanborn takes up his work in Indiana, March 1.

The annual report of the Public library of Council Bluffs, Ia., records the number of books lent for home use for 1913, 113,104, an increase of 24 per cent; 27,032 volumes were added to the shelves. A collection of Danish books was added. The library tax was increased to three mills. Reference lists were made out for 12 study clubs. Special departments have been set aside for the various debating teams of the schools of the city. Branch libraries are maintained in five of the school buildings.

Dr Milo Quayle, professor of history at Lewis institute Chicago, has been elected superintendent of the library of the Wisconsin historical society, to succeed the late lamented Dr R. G. Thwaites.

Dr Quayle was born in Iowa 33 years ago, is a graduate of Grinnell college and has a Master's degree from the University of Missouri, 1905. He took the degree of Doctor of philosophy at the University of Chicago in 1908, and went immediately to Lewis institute.

Dr Quayle has been an active student and publisher in the field of Western American history. He edited the manuscript diary of President Polk, and his "History of the old North-West" is already a standard.

Dr George W. Peckham, for 14 years librarian of the Public library of Milwaukee, died in that city January 10, following a stroke of apoplexy. Dr Peckham served for some years as superintendent of the Milwaukee schools.

He was a soldier throughout the Civil War, and attended college at the close of the war. He took a medical course at Ann Arbor, graduating in 1872. He did not practice medicine, but entered the Milwaukee high school in 1873. He was connected with schools in various positions until 1896, when he became librarian of the Public library. He resigned about three years ago.

His special research work was the life and habits of spiders and wasps, on which subject he was an authority.

He was 68 years old at the time of his death.

South

On the recent Library day in the public schools of Kosciusko, Miss., Professor G. F. Boyd collected \$400 for a school library fund.

The Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas, has opened its shelves to the United States army. The commissioned officers will be allowed to borrow books on filling out the regular application form with their signatures, and the others will be allowed to borrow books or use the library on presenting the

signature of a commissioned officer as guarantor.

The report of the State library commission of Kentucky shows that the commission has 8,648 books in 143 traveling libraries; 60 school libraries, 40 farmers' club libraries, one for negro schools, and one special library. The books are scattered through 84 counties, 40 schools, state institutions, social settlements, farmers' clubs, etc. There were 54 libraries lent from July to December, and 44 were returned.

The annual report of the Public library of Charlotte, N. C., prepared by Mary B. Palmer, librarian, records 7,288 volumes on the shelves, and a circulation of 45,648, an increase of nearly 6,500 over the previous year. 3,406 volumes were issued to county residents. There are 5,675 active borrowers.

The number actually using the reading room was 15,216. Special privileges were extended to teachers and to county teachers especially. The report regrets a reduction of \$500 in the appropriation for the year 1914.

The Public library of Louisville, Ky., which is a member of the Drama league of America, has issued a bulletin on plays to accompany a display of the material on the drama in the library in the open shelf room.

A new civic reference room will be opened shortly. Newspapers, magazines and other references of a civic character will be gathered in the new room.

West

The annual report of the State library of Nebraska records 65,871 volumes on the shelf.

Minnie Williams, librarian at Cherryvale, Kans., has resigned her position to become librarian of Hutchinson, Kans.

Seven circulating deposit stations of the Public library of Denver have been established throughout the city in addition to the regular branches. These are for the convenience of those living at a great distance from the library centers. Each of the stations is established in a

municipal or public building of some kind.

Louise M. Fernald has become permanent librarian of the Public library at Great Falls, Mont. Miss Fernald had charge of the library during Miss Connor's absence abroad last year. On the latter's return, she handed in her resignation on account of severe illness in her family, and Miss Fernald will continue as permanent librarian.

The State university of Wyoming, through its librarian, Dr Grace Hebard, has instituted a traveling library system for the state.

The books will be sent out from the State university, and will include not only the best variety of fiction, agricultural and domestic science books, history, biography and travel, but special collections for children to be sent to rural and mountainous districts out of touch with regular libraries, and will be allowed to remain in one community for two months.

Pacific coast

After 21 years of work, the Astoria public library association, Astoria, Ore., ceased to exist January 21, and has turned over all its property to the city authorities. Under a recent law, the mayor will organize a library board to conduct the public library for the city.

Foreign

Rev. Thomas Kingswell Abbott, librarian of Trinity college, Dublin, a noted scholar and writer, died December 18.

Wright, Sir A. E., M. D. The unexpurgated case against woman suffrage. Hoebner, New York. \$1.

"The unexpurgated case against woman suffrage," has created a great stir in England. Without in any way taking a stand for the suffrage movement, one is compelled to say that Sir Almoth has come pretty near writing a book which might be classed under 827.91. It is impossible to think the book was written in earnest, but if so, it will undoubtedly prove a boomerang in the war on woman suffrage. Doubtless there are good arguments against giving women the franchise at present, but they do not appear overpowering in the "Unexpurgated case."